



VICTORIA FAMILY COURT & YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE
Notice of Meeting on Thursday, November 28, 2024 at 11:30 am
Boardroom, 6th Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

Meeting to be conducted electronically and in-person.

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 November 28, 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 October 24, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be adopted.

4.2. Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of November 14, 2024 (**attached**)

Recommendation: That the notes of the November 14, 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. Presenter - Cheryl Chaytors, Boys & Girls Club Greater Victoria (?)

6.3. Delegation - Dr. Rebecca Nelems, re: MYST Business Case Study (**attached**)

7. Sub-Committee Business

7.1. Priorities and Grants (Marcie McLean)

7.1.1. Report from Kisae Peterson, Operational Manager, Victoria Youth Empowerment Society re: program outcomes from VFCYJC "Summer Opportunities" grant (**attached**)

7.1.2. Sanctuary Youth Centre/Cornerstone Society program outcomes report (**attached**)

7.2. Communications Committee (Jeff Bateman)

7.3. Capital Region Action Team (Bill McElroy)

8. Treasurer's Report (Esther Paterson)

8.1. 2024 Third Quarter Financial Statement (**attached**)

8.2. 2025 Draft Budget (**attached**)

9. Committee Business

10. Correspondence (attached**)**

10.1. ICE report

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

10.3. Westshore RCMP withdrawal from MYST and Regional Integrated Units
(**attached** – Westshore RCMP letter)

10.4. Officer and subcommittee positions – reminder (**attached**)

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

10.6. VFCYJC Annual Report (discussion)

10.7. Determining presenter honorarium for Cathy Peters

11. Notice(s) of Motion

11.1. Motion with Notice (M. McLean)

"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)"

12. Adjournment

No Meetings in December

Next Scheduled Meeting, Annual General Meeting on January 23, 2025



Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting held Thursday, October 24, 2024, CRD Boardroom, 6th floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria BC

PRESENT: Municipal Representatives: Marie-Térèse Little (Metchosin); Kimberley Guiry (Langford); Marcie McLean (Highlands); Rose Stanton (Highlands-Alternate) (EP); Esther Paterson (Oak Bay); Sara Duncan (Sidney) (EP); Cynthia Day (Colwood) (EP); Don Brown (View Royal) (EP); Mena Westhaver (Saanich) (EP).

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

Capital Regional District (CRD) Representatives: Bill McElroy (CRAT) (EP); Cheryl Chaytors (Boys and Girls Club) (EP).

Resource Agencies: Mobile Youth Services Team's Mia Golden, Youth Counsellor, (Pacific Centre Family Services Association).

Guests. Cathy Peters, (Anti Human Trafficking Educator, Speaker, Advocate) (EP)

CRD Staff: Sharon Orr, (Senior Committee Clerk; CRD); Steve Carey (CRD) and Marnie Essery, (Secretary & Recorder) (EP)

Regrets: Jeff Bateman (Sooke); Krista Loughton (Victoria); Darlene Rotchford (Esquimalt); Jim Rondeau (Central Saanich); K. Kwan (SD 61); Jack McClintock (North Saanich); Samantha Rappaport, (CRD Appointee); Andrew Holeton (CRD Appointee).

EP - Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 am.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Little provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

That the agenda for Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of October 24, 2024 be approved.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. Adoption of the Minutes

MOVED by K. Guiry, **SECONDED** by E. Paterson,

That the minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of September 26, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

3.2. Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of October 10, 2024

It was clarified by a member that the description of write-ups were for the subcommittees and the subcommittee Chairs are appointed by VFCYJC.

**MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by K. Guiry,
That the meeting notes of the Steering Committee of October 10, 2024 be received.
CARRIED**

4. Chairperson's Remarks

It is my great pleasure that the Op Ed piece was published by the Times Colonist. Many thanks to the Communications subcommittee for their great work. Chek 6 also featured this issue last night.

5. Presentations/Delegations

- 5.1. MYST Update:** M. Golden thanked the committee for all their efforts, and reported that G. Magee with VicPD has not been extended, he will be going back to patrol as of January 2025. M. Golden will be getting a new partner as of January 2025.

- 5.2. Cathy Peters, BC Anti Human Trafficking Educator, Speaker, Advocate**
C. Peters presented BC Anti Human Trafficking.

6. Sub-Committee Business

6.1. Treasurer's Report (Esther Paterson)

A draft budget was circulated to the committee.

A member suggested \$1000.00 for professional development. For example, in the past, our members have taken the Cultural Perspectives Training through the Indigenous Perspectives Society.

**MOVED by E. Paterson, SECONDED by C. Day,
That Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee will pay for 2 members to register for Cultural Perspectives Training through the Indigenous Perspectives Society.
CARRIED**

**MOVED by Chair Little, SECONDED by M. McLean,
That the honorarium be raised to \$900.00.
CARRIED**

**MOVED by E. Paterson, SECONDED by C. Day,
To add \$2,000.00 for website development in the 2025 budget.
CARRIED**

6.2. Communications Committee

The website is back up and running.

6.3. CRAT (Verbal Update)

B. McElroy provided a verbal update stating he is in the process of preparing a graphic novel.

7. Committee Business

7.1. Draft 2025 Budget

Committee members expressed the need for a small budget to cover graphic design costs for the next Annual Report.

7.2. Coroner's Statistics (Rose Stanton)

R. Stanton spoke to Item 7.2. and provided coroners stats on children and youth.

7.3. Funding from VFCYJ committee for MYST

A member suggested recognizing this as a need from the community and moving it up to the CRD Board. It was decided that this will be considered at the next monthly meeting on November 28. As urgent as this is, committee members need time to consider this.

7.4. Scholarship - in recognition of Adam Flint

This is a great suggestion but our members felt that we can't use money from our committee for this purpose as its outside the scope of our mandate. Instead, K. Guiry proposed naming our annual agency reception after A. Flint.

7.5. Officer and subcommittee positions - reminder

Chair M.T. Little reminded committee members that the 2025 Executive will be elected at the Annual General Meeting on January 23, 2025 and Subcommittee Chairs will be announced at that time.

8. Notice of Motion

8.1. M. McLean read the following Notice of Motion to brought back to the November meeting Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee meeting:

"That Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (VFC&YJC) directs the Chair to send a cover letter signed by the chair together with the Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) Business Case Report (Report) dated September 2024 addressed to VFC&YJC 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 the

*Ministers of Public Safety, Education, Children and Family Development, Addictions," others ??

*VFC&YJC Chair (for our records)"

9. New Business

A time sensitive request has been brought to the attention of Chair M.T. Little. Dr. Rebecca's Nelems is applying for a federal government grant called "New Frontiers in Research Fund" and wants VFCYJC to be a collaborator in the project.

MOVED by K. Guiry, SECONDED by B. McElroy
That Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee support Dr. Rebecca's Nelems in her federal government grant application "New Frontiers in Research Fund" and agree to be named as a collaborator and appoint Mr. Bill McElroy as the committee representative.
CARRIED

Tour of Youth Empowerment Society

M. McLean updated that VFCYJC had asked for a tour of the Youth Empowerment Society at 533 Yates Street to take place on Thursday, November 28 at 10 a.m. prior to our monthly meeting at 11:30 a.m.

10. Adjournment

Moved by D. Brown, Seconded by C. Day,
That the October 28, 2024 session of the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee be adjourned at 1:29 p.m.
CARRIED

Notes- Steering Committee meeting November 14, 2024

1. Reminder of the tour of the Youth Empowerment Society before November 28th meeting at 10:15am, on 533 Yates St.
2. Committee reviewed the proposed agenda and reviewed minutes from previous meeting for action items
3. Committee discussed possible upcoming speakers including Cedar Dodd from BC First Nations Justice Council, Cheryl Chaytors from Boys and Girls Club and Dr. Nelems to speak to the 5-year business plan for MYST
4. Kiasa Peterson, Youth Empowerment Society to discuss the outcomes of their program and report out. Discussion was suggested to go under priorities and grants
5. Committee reviewed the committee business including the available documentation available for attachments and who would be responsible for providing the documentation
6. Committee discussed the reporting out of CRAT and what should be included with VFCYJ. CRAT to provide verbal update at meeting.
7. Discussion on adding honorarium for Cathy Peters under committee business
8. Discussion for clarification on the expectations on what would come forward from the Communications Committee as part of their report
9. Discussed adding membership discussion to committee business and the qualification matrix

Next Steering Committee meeting is January 9th, 2025

POLICY REPORT:
MOBILE YOUTH SERVICES TEAM (MYST):
CRITICAL STATUS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Prepared by Dr. Rebecca Nelems¹ (PhD)
Capital Regional District, BC
September 26, 2024

Executive Summary:

This report presents the recent findings and recommendations of an external review of the Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST), CRD, BC. Conducted by a local researcher with expertise in child-centred programming and well being, this report is based in an analysis of a wide range of data and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with leaders representing the education, government, legal, health, police, social services and child welfare sectors who have worked directly with MYST. The research consistently showed that:

- As one of the fastest growing Capital Regional Districts (CRD) in Canada, and with the intersecting crises of opioids, homelessness, mental health, surging gang presence and online exploitation, ***we have reached an urgent crisis point with respect to youth gang exploitation and entrenchment*** in our region.
- The ***Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) is directly reducing and preventing youth gang exploitation across the CRD*** by offering effective, economically efficient, critical and unique support to youth.
- Despite the surging needs, and MYST's proven track record, ***funding for MYST has reached a crisis point***, with MYST having to dramatically reduce its operations effective as of September 30, 2024.

Recommendations include:

- 1. To secure long-term, 5-year funding to support two full-time MYST teams.**
- 2. To urgently convene local leadership across education, health, police, legal services, child and family services, and all levels of government to strategize and guide long-term, inter-institutional funding mechanisms and strategies.**
- 3. To conduct research on MYST as a model of youth-centred, wraparound support that could be replicated in other municipalities and capital regional districts across Canada.**

¹ This report was prepared by Dr. Rebecca Nelems (PhD), Assistant Professor with the Centre for Social Sciences at Athabasca University (AU) & Associate Faculty in Leadership Studies at Royal Roads University (RRU). The research for this report was made possible with the support of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (VFCYJC), Capital Regional District (CRD).

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1. MYST PROGRAM

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 and one child, youth and family counselor. 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.

Up until Monday, September 30, 2024 – when funding for the counselor position will be reduced to two days/week – the two-person team carried 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 has also maintained 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;
- updates and presentations to the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (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;
- support for 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.

3. FINDINGS: IMPACT OF THE MYST PROGRAM

This review found MYST to be a unique, multi-disciplinary, inter-institutional partnership through which the team has built significant relationships of trust and support with young people from across the CRD. 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” as the MYST 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.

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 June 2024, MYST had 254 youth (active cases) to whom they were 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 has continued 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 recommendations below focus on securing funding and long-term support for MYST in general, it is also 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 through appropriate succession planning and capacity building of future personnel.

2 ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions were reached based on a comprehensive analysis of the data reviewed.

Conclusion 1: Current reductions in funding mean the MYST program is having to significantly reduce its services and may eventually have to shut down.

As of the week of September 30th, 2024, the counsellor position in MYST will be reduced to only two days/week, due to lack of funding for the program. Not all regional police departments have confirmed their ongoing funding for MYST, which could result in reducing the budget allocation of the police position for MYST dramatically. Inconsistent, precarious funding of MYST threatens staff retention and ongoing consistency of program staff and their relationships with youth, that have been so critical to the program's effectiveness.

Conclusion 2: Long-term commitment in the form of funding, inter-institutional collaboration and strategic planning is required by actors from across all levels of government (municipal, provincial and federal), civil society, criminal justice, police, education and health to support and ensure the ongoing services provided by MYST.

MYST's mandate affects the public safety and well being of families, young people and communities across the Capital Regional District. The work of MYST directly contributes to achieving the mandates of all agencies concerned with local, regional and federal governance, health, education, community and family services, legal services, police and the criminal justice system. However, there has been no strategic, inter-institutional long-term plan or agreement for supporting MYST moving forward. This includes attending to the need to ensure continuity of MYST personnel to secure current impact and to support the strategic growth of the program and its impact, and the need to engage in succession planning, training and capacity building and human resources into the future.

Conclusion 3: MYST is an existing strength and resource in the region, offering local actors the critical opportunity to invest in effective prevention and intervention in a highly cost-efficient way, which is not being offered by any other existing service in the region.

The health, education, criminal justice, community and family services systems are well poised in the region for critical preventative and interventionist 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). MYST has a proven track record with respect to its work in the areas of intervention and prevention of youth exploitation cases.

Conclusion 4: MYST's current and anticipated future workload is untenable and unsustainable for even one MYST team, let alone the reduced capacity of the team moving forward.

Even the pre-existing team of two full-time personnel, which is no longer be in place as of the week of September 30, 2024, would not be able to keep up with growing number of youth in need, as risks increase. Gang presence continues to be on the rise in the region and the complexity of youth exploitation is dramatically increasing (e.g. predators grooming of youth now includes conditioning into child pornography, etc.). There has been an increasing demand on MYST for educational support and training of young people, educators, parents, community agencies and members. Even when operating one full-time team, MYST support and services have been needed around the clock, which a single team could not physically provide. Long-term commitment of funding for a minimum of two police positions is needed from police agencies to address the level of need currently documented in the region. Secure, long-term funding for a minimum of two counselor positions is also needed.

Conclusion 5: Given MYST’s track record as an effective, cost-efficient, inter-institutional and cross-jurisdictional approach to youth gang prevention, there is a significant opportunity to research MYST as an innovative, youth-centred wraparound model that could be replicated by other municipalities and capital regional districts across Canada.

The issues BC’s CRD are facing with respect to youth gang exploitation and entrenchment are urgent. However, they are not unique to our region or province alone. Municipalities and capital regional districts across Canada – and North America – are facing relatable crises. *The unique factor about our CRD is we have an effective and cost-efficient model for offering wraparound support to young people already in place: MYST.* Long-term research on this program could document and showcase a replicable model that would benefit other cities, whilst further strengthening MYST in our own community by continuing to build on success factors and evidence for what works.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1:

To urgently secure long-term, five-year funding (2024-2029) to support two full-time MYST teams, each consisting of one police officer and one counsellor.

The total estimated budget needed to support the MYST program is:

2024-2025: \$702,000 / annum

- A total budget of **\$412,000 budget for 2024-2025** for two MYST police officer positions.
- A total budget of **\$290,000 for 2024-2025** for two counselor positions through PCFSA.

2025-2029: \$672,000 / annum

- The total budget going forward per annum from 2026-2029 for two MYST police officers is estimated at approximately **\$382,000 per annum²**
- A total budget of **\$290,000 for 2024-2025** for two counselor positions through PCFSA.

Recommendation 2:

To urgently convene local leadership across education, health, police, legal services, child and family services, and all levels of government to strategize and guide long-term, inter-institutional funding mechanisms and strategies for MYST.

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. Community support and institutional leadership is urgently needed to raise the long-term secure support needed by the MYST program.

² Please note the annual budget for 2024-2025 is higher due to the need for a one-time \$30,000 (approx.) vehicle expense in that year.

Recommendation 3:

To conduct research on MYST as a model of youth-centred, wraparound support that could be replicated in other municipalities and capital regional districts across Canada.

The MYST program not only needs to be sustainably funded to avert its closure and reduction of services, it needs to be expanded upon, recognized and replicated, moving forward. Long-term research on this program could offer replicable models for other cities across Canada and North America, and help further strengthen MYST's approach in our own community by continuing to build on success factors and evidence for what works. Inter-institutional research partnerships could leverage substantial federal government funds to support these components. The Social Sciences and Humanities and Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and the Tri-Council Agencies have a range of research funding opportunities, including some for 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. Current and future funding allocated to MYST by local government or agencies would qualify as such matching funds and could support the leveraging of these funds. The author of this report is currently working with interested local institutions and agencies in developing funding proposals and welcomes additional community partners to get in touch.

4 CONCLUDING REMARKS

MYST is a critical upstream intervention that is proven, effective, and cost-efficient, offering unique value to youth, 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 report aims to advocate for the immediate funding of two MYST teams, 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.

Sincerely,



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, 12 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted with leaders representing the following institutions all of whom have worked directly with MYST:

- BC Government
- Vancouver Island Health Authority
- 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 Districts 61 and 62
- MYST Team members
- Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA)
- Victoria Police Department

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

Letters of support for MYST were also reviewed and received from individuals representing:

- Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre
- Victoria and West Shore Child and Youth Advocacy Centres (CYAC)
- Safer Schools Together
- Greater Victoria School District (GVSD) 61
- Youth & Family Mental Health and Substance Use (CYFMHSU)
- Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)
- Capital Region Action Team
- Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (VFCYJC)



VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD

Public Meeting Agenda

August 20, 2024 at 5:00pm

Boardroom & Zoom

1. Chair/Vice Chair

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| Pg. 1 | a. | 240724 Letter of Appointment from Esquimalt Council |
| Pg. 2 | b. | 240815 Letter of Appointment from Victoria Council |
| Pg. 3 | c. | Vote new Chair and Vice Chair |

2. STANDING ITEMS

- | | | |
|--------|----|---|
| | a. | Territorial Acknowledgement |
| | b. | Declarations of Conflict of Interest |
| | c. | Adoption of the Public Agenda of August 20, 2024 |
| Pg. 4 | d. | Adoption of the Public Minutes of July 16, 2024 |
| | e. | Board Co-Chairs Update |
| Pg. 7 | f. | Committees Update |
| | g. | Board Member Engagement Update |
| | h. | BC Association of Police Boards Director's Update |
| Pg. 12 | i. | Chief Constable Update |
| | j. | Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Engagement Update |
| | h. | Review of Board 2023-2025 Strategic Priorities |

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- | | | |
|--------|----|--|
| Pg. 15 | a. | 240715 Letter from Minister Singh |
| Pg. 16 | b. | 240729 Letter from PSSG re ICE funding |
| Pg. 19 | c. | 240812 Cst Fuller Letter of Thanks |

4. RISE & REPORT *(when applicable)*



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

Municipal Hall, 1229 Esquimalt Road, Victoria, B.C. V9A 3P1

Telephone 250-414-7177

Website: www.esquimalt.ca Email: corporate.services@esquimalt.ca

File No. 7400-01

Sent via email
Board@vicpd.ca

July 25, 2024

Micayla Hayes, Vice-Chair
Victoria & Esquimalt Police Board
850 Caledonia Ave
Victoria, BC V8T 5J8

Dear Micayla Hayes,

Re: Police Board Appointment

Please be advised that at its In Camera Meeting of Council held on July 22, 2024, the Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt Council resolved the following:

"That Council appoint Mayor Barbara Desjardins as the Council representative to the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board, effective August 1, 2024, until December 31, 2025, and that this appointment be communicated to the Police Board and to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General."

Should you require further clarification, please contact me at 250-414-7135 or via email to deb.hopkins@esquimalt.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deb Hopkins".

Deb Hopkins
Director of Corporate Services / Corporate Officer

THE CITY OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

August 8, 2024

Micayla Hayes
Vice-Chair
Victoria Police Board

Via Email: micayla.hayes@vicpd.ca

Dear Ms. Hayes,

I am writing on to you today on behalf of Victoria City Council, to inform you that that the below motion was passed at the July 25, 2024, Council meeting:

- 1. Appoint Marianne Alto as the Council representative to the Victoria Esquimalt Police Board or its subsequent entity, from this day until May 1, 2028, subject to said person remaining a duly elected member of Victoria City Council.*

Thank you and I look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Marianne Alto
Victoria Mayor



VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE: ELECTIONS

Updated: July 2024

1. APPOINTMENT

Board members must self-identify as candidates for Chair or Vice Chair positions. If only one Board member agrees to act in either position, that person is acclaimed in the position they have agreed too. If a slate of candidates is identified, each candidate has the opportunity to speak for up to five minutes. After all presentations are completed, a secret ballot is taken and submitted to the EA for confirmation and announcement. Voting rules for Board meetings apply.



VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD

Public Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2024 at 5:00pm

Boardroom & Zoom

PRESENT

Mayor Desjardins, Chair
Mayor Alto
H. Courtright
E. Cull
S. Dhillon
P. Faoro
M. Hayes

T. Kituri
D. Yakimchuk
Chief Cst. Manak
DC J. Laidman
DC J. McRae
Insp. C. Brown
Insp. M. Brown

Insp. C. King
S/Sgt. M. Darling
S/Sgt. J. Ames
S/Sgt. J. Malinosky
K. Kosich
Da. Phillips
Do. Phillips

Recorder: Tanya Lamoureux

1. PRESENTATION

a. School Police Liaison Officers

Human Rights Commissioner Kasari Govender in attendance for discussion and presentation with VEPB, MYST, and VicPD

- Guest speaker Mia Golden, Commissioner Govender, Minister Flemming
- Marcia McLean, member of the public spoke for 3 minutes

2. STANDING ITEMS

a. Territorial Land Acknowledgement

b. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts declared.

c. Approval: Public Agenda of July 16, 2024

24-71 **MOTION:** *To approve the Public agenda of July 16, 2024 as amended to add Chief Constables report update as item H.* **MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED**

5 minute break called at 6:06pm after presentation, meeting resumed 6:09pm

d. Approval: Public Minutes of June 18, 2024

24-72 **MOTION:** *To approve the Public Minutes of June 18, 2024 as presented.*
MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED

e. **Review of Board 2023-2025 Strategic Priorities**

Move to Aug 20 meeting

f. **Board Co-Chair Updates**

No discussion arising

g. **Committees Update**

Refer to the report provided. Committee matters arising included:

- Finance
 - 2025 Budget
 - Community consult
 - Council consultations
- Human Resources and Governance Committees did not meet in July 2024.

h. **Chief Update**

- Community update incident
 - EHS confirmed that police attendance is now required for specific areas for employee safety. Confirmed with service providers in the direct area. Plans are being constructed to ensure safety for workers, general public, community safety.
 - Frontline responders should be safe and plans are in the works through multiple agencies as well as the service providers in the high risk areas
 - EA to Write letter of thanks to the other jurisdictions that came to our assistance on the evening of July

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. **240705 Letter from PSSG re Training Requirements in Standards**

- Indigenous Culture awareness training and training is being tracked and is on track to meet the goal set out by the Province

b. **2024 MO OIC #467**

- Provincial Government new Order in Council which puts this board in compliance with all other boards within the Province.
- August will commence with a vote for a new Chair and Vice Chair

c. **240712 Esquimalt Council response re: Proposed expansion VIIMCU**

- Esquimalt Council is interested in learning more information and could the police provide further information around this expansion

24-73 **MOTION:** *That the EA invite the Province to present at the August meeting regarding the proposed expansion of VIIMCU to help explain why this is being proposed, what is the benefits, and how the costs have been allocated across the police departments.*
MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED

4. CORRESPONDENCE *(for information only)*

a. **240624 PSSG Letter of Appreciation**

b. 240705 Response from SD61 re: Request for Information

- Leave the response with Chief Constable

5. RISE & REPORT *(when applicable)*

- No discussion arising.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.



VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD

DATE:	August 20th, 2024
TO:	Victoria & Esquimalt Police Board
FROM:	Donna Phillips, Director of Financial Services
SUBJECT:	July 2024 Financial Report
ACTION:	For Information

SUMMARY:

This report contains the monthly financial report as of July 29th, 2024. The target for spending is approximately 57.6% of the fiscal year based on payroll. Actual results are 60% of the total budget.

Highlights:

- The Integrated Units combined actual is approximately \$460,000 overspent year-to-date, a significant portion of which will be adjusted for cost-sharing at year end.
- Overtime expenditures are 38% (approximately \$895,000) overspent year-to-date. A more in-depth analysis of overtime spending will come forward in September.
- Retirement expenditures incurred are \$656,307 (nil budget). If there is insufficient surplus at year-end to cover these expenditures, they will be charged against the employee benefit obligation reserve. The reserve balance as of January 1, 2024 was \$8,737,919.
- The above overages are offset by underspending in professional services, equipment maintenance, communications and fuel.

This report has been adjusted for the following:

- \$586,616 in Standby pay has been reclassified from Overtime to Salaries due to the setup in the scheduling software;
- \$408,023 of expenditure added for July services payable for E-Comm levy;
- \$138,926 net recovery added for amounts due from Legislative Assembly and the City of Victoria for the Late Night Task Force;
- \$126,346 of expenditure added for unbilled costs payable for building maintenance (Victoria and Esquimalt), financial services (Victoria), and CREST radio;
- \$62,940 of expenditure removed for pre-billed PRIME police database;
- \$43,411 accrued transfer from the Financial Stability Reserve to cover Investigative Services Division, Special Operations investigative costs (transfer at year end).



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT JULY 29TH, 2024

Statement 1

Victoria Police Department
Revenue and Expenditures By Division (Unaudited)
For the Period Ending July 29, 2024

	Budget	Pro-rated Budget 57.6%	Actual	(Over) Under	% of Total Budget
Special Events and Duties	750,000	432,000	192,100	557,900	25.6%
Information Support Services	85,000	48,960	51,944	33,056	61.1%
Grants - Miscellaneous	24,500	14,112	91,951	(67,451)	375.3%
Other	-	-	2,622	(2,622)	N/A
Jail Operations	40,000	23,040	18,315	21,685	45.8%
Total Revenue	899,500	518,112	356,933	542,567	39.7%
Operating Expenditures By Division					
Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board	150,500	86,688	59,109	91,391	39.3%
Office of the Chief Constable	1,291,050	743,645	713,757	577,293	55.3%
Patrol Division	20,824,042	11,994,648	13,289,643	7,534,399	63.8%
Community Services Division	7,194,984	4,144,311	5,059,975	2,135,009	70.3%
Esquimalt Division	5,188,510	2,988,582	3,247,937	1,940,573	62.6%
Investigative Services Division	8,650,174	4,982,500	5,608,213	3,041,961	64.8%
Community Engagement Division	1,137,842	655,397	659,504	478,338	58.0%
Executive Services Division	2,504,278	1,442,464	1,399,637	1,104,641	55.9%
Information Risk Management Division	9,935,357	5,722,766	5,449,490	4,485,867	54.8%
Human Resources Division	4,580,452	2,638,340	2,671,004	1,909,448	58.3%
Financial Services Division	6,327,476	3,644,626	1,857,628	4,406,908	29.4%
Corporate	1,017,665	586,175	776,455	241,210	76.3%
Integrated Units	3,034,381	1,747,803	2,209,863	824,518	72.8%
Total Operating Expenditures	71,836,711	41,377,946	43,065,155	28,771,556	59.9%
Transfers to Capital	1,200,000	691,200	600,000	600,000	50.0%
Net Deficit	72,137,211	41,551,034	43,308,222	41,861,148	60.0%

Statement 2

Victoria Police Department
Revenue and Expenditures by Object (Unaudited)
For the Period Ending July 29, 2024

	Actual	Budget	% Used	(Over)/Under	
				\$	%
Revenue					
Special Events	192,100	750,000	25.6%	557,900	74.4%
Records	51,944	85,000	61.1%	33,056	38.9%
Grants	91,951	24,500	375.3%	(67,451)	-275.3%
Other	2,622	-	NA	(2,622)	100.0%
Jail Operations	18,315	40,000	45.8%	21,685	54.2%
Total Revenue	356,933	899,500	39.7%	542,567	60.3%
Operating Expenditures					
Salaries and Benefits	30,899,858	52,242,291	59.1%	21,342,433	40.9%
Retirements	656,307	-	NA	(656,307)	100.0%
Non-Recoverable Overtime	3,258,955	4,099,140	79.5%	840,185	20.5%
Professional/Third Party Services	714,621	2,944,139	24.3%	2,229,518	75.7%
E-Comm 9-1-1	2,856,163	5,067,930	56.4%	2,211,767	43.6%
Equipment Maintenance - Fleet & Computers	1,065,866	2,131,255	50.0%	1,065,389	50.0%
Communications	427,999	872,600	49.0%	444,601	51.0%
Travel and Training	1,120,200	1,833,390	61.1%	713,190	38.9%
Building Maintenance	392,541	563,455	69.7%	170,914	30.3%
General and Office Supplies	346,745	511,610	67.8%	164,865	32.2%
Other Operating Expenditures	401,449	279,500	143.6%	(121,949)	-43.6%
Uniforms & Protective Clothing	295,039	415,000	71.1%	119,961	28.9%
Lease/Rental/PRIME	345,107	586,200	58.9%	241,093	41.1%
Fuel and Motor Oil	97,456	381,891	25.5%	284,435	74.5%
Insurance	173,977	337,510	51.5%	163,533	48.5%
Postage and Freight	12,872	25,500	50.5%	12,628	49.5%
Total Operating Expenditures	43,065,155	72,291,411	59.6%	29,226,256	40.4%
Transfers to Capital	600,000	1,200,000	50.0%	600,000	50.0%
Transfers to Evergreen Reserve	-	45,300	0.0%	45,300	100.0%
Transfer from Financial Stability Reserve	-	500,000	0.0%	500,000	100.0%
Net Deficit	43,308,222	72,137,211	60.0%	28,828,989	40.0%

Statement 3

Victoria Police Department
Capital Expenditures (Unaudited)
For the Period Ending July 29, 2024

	<u>Transfers to Capital Fund</u>	<u>Budgeted Expenditures</u>	<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>(Over) Under</u>	<u>%</u>
Vehicles	-	600,000	283,571	316,429	47.3%
Computer Equipment	-	500,000	178,949	321,051	35.8%
Furniture	-	400,000	2,082	397,918	0.5%
Police Building Upgrades	-	-	10,613	(10,613)	N/A
Total Capital	<u>1,200,000</u>	<u>1,500,000</u>	<u>475,215</u>	<u>1,024,785</u>	<u>31.7%</u>



VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD

DATE:	July 16, 2024
TO:	Victoria & Esquimalt Police Board
FROM:	Chief Cst. Manak
SUBJECT:	Chief Constable Monthly Engagement Highlights
ACTION:	For Information

Internal & External Engagements

June 19	Leadership presentation to Cohort 4 re: CACP Police Executive Mentorship Program
June 21	Attended the Greater Victoria Police Foundation Board meeting
June 22	Attended the 2024 Reserve Class Graduation Ceremony
June 24	Presented a promotional plaque to Staff Sergeant Almeida and Sergeant Hilborne
June 25	Met with Staff Sergeants re: Information-sharing
June 25	Met with the DVBA regarding downtown business concerns
June 25	Attended to support the NHL Street Hockey program
June 26	Presented a promotional plaque to Sergeant Barker
June 27	Presented the CAPG Webinar: School Police Liaison Officer Program
July 1	Worked on Canada Day
July 2	Attended the Oaklands Community Association Summer Camp
July 3	Attended the Swearing-in Ceremony for Oak Bay Deputy Chief Rice
July 4	Presented the Q1 CSRC to City of Victoria Council
July 5	Attended the JIBC Police Academy Graduation
July 12	Attended the HarbourCats ball game to throw out the first pitch
July 15	Attended the budget consultation meeting with Esquimalt Council

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Engagement

June 22	Attended Africa Fest Celebration
July 7	Attended Pride Parade

July 7	Attended Festival of India
July 8	Attended the Gurmat Kids Summer Camp at the Gurdwara
July 13	Attended Festival Mexicano



VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD

DATE:	August 20, 2024
TO:	Victoria & Esquimalt Police Board
FROM:	Chief Cst. Manak
SUBJECT:	Chief Constable Monthly Engagement Highlights
ACTION:	For Information

Internal & External Engagements

July 16	Attended Esquimalt Music in the Park
July 17	Met with Minister Farnworth re: 900 Block of Pandora
July 23	Attended NHL Street
July 23	Attended Esquimalt Music in the Park
July 25	Walked the Beat with Inspector Brown
July 29	Presented promotional plaque to Sergeant Eagles
July 30	Walked the Beat with Inspector King
July 30	Attended the NHL Street Finale
August 13	Presented a VicPD Civic Service Award

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Engagement

July 21	Attended the Annual Community Vaisakhi Sports Fair
July 26	Attended VicPD and ACEH Relationship building event – HarbourCats game
August 18	Attended the Punjabi Cultural Community Association Festival



July 12, 2024

Ref: 299620

Their Worship Mayor Barbara Desjardins, Lead Co-Chair
Township of Esquimalt

Their Worship Mayor Marianne Alto
City of Victoria

Email: Tanya.Lamoureux@vicpd.ca

Dear Mayor Desjardins and Mayor Alto:

Thank you for your letter of May 28, 2024, regarding student safety in School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria).

Student and staff safety is the Ministry of Education and Child Care's number one priority and I take that responsibility very seriously. I understand a meeting has been coordinated with leadership at Victoria and Saanich Police Departments and Assistant Deputy Minister Jennifer McCrea to hear directly from members and others. I look forward to reviewing the findings from this meeting in the coming weeks.

I would also note that Deputy Minister Christina Zacharuk has also met with the Board Chair and Superintendent of the School District on this very important issue.

The Ministry is deeply committed to creating and maintaining safe, welcoming, and inclusive school environments. To promote a culture of student safety in BC schools, the Ministry's [Expect Respect and a Safe Education \(erase\) strategy](#) focuses on prevention and intervention training, crisis response and expert advice through Safer Schools Together, the provinces subject matters experts in school safety.

Thank you for reaching out to express your concerns. I look forward to working with you both to support student safety in School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria).

Sincerely,

Rachna Singh
Minister



VIA EMAIL

Ref. 667800

July 29, 2024

His Worship Ryan Windsor
Mayor of the District of Central Saanich
Email: ryan.windsor@csaanich.ca

His Worship Kevin Murdoch
Mayor of the District of Oak Bay
Email: mayor@oakbay.ca

Her Worship Dean Murdoch
Mayor of the District of Saanich
Email: Mayor@saanich.ca

Her Worship Marianne Alto
Mayor of the City of Victoria
Email: MAalto@victoria.ca

Her Worship Barb Desjardins
Mayor of the City of Esquimalt
Email: barbara.desjardins@esquimalt.ca

Dear Mayors:

Re: ICE Funding – Capital Regional District (CRD) ICE Unit for 2024/25 Fiscal Year

I am writing to you in your respective roles as Chair of the Board for the Central Saanich, Oak Bay, Saanich and Victoria Police Departments. The Capital Regional District (CRD) Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit has been approved for funding under the federal Contribution Program to Combat Serious and Organized Crime (CPCSOC) funding agreement, which the Province administers. I am pleased to advise you that the CRD ICE Unit has been approved and will be provided with \$650,849.00 per year from the CPCSOC for fiscal years 2024/2025 – 2026/27 to support ICE staff salaries and benefits, computers and accessories for processing child sexual abuse material (CSAM), forensic investigation software and ICE training.

.../2

Mayors
Page 2

I am very pleased we can continue to support the excellent work of the CRD ICE Unit who I understand was originally established as a six-month pilot project from October 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022, and was the only initiative in BC that brought together existing municipal police departmental resources in an integrated team. I am advised that the CRD-ICE Unit have capitalized on the initial opportunities presented by this funding by sending one of their members for ICE training and conducting 36 ICE investigations between December 2023 and March 31, 2024. I am very confident that they will build on this track record of success and continue to enhance public safety in the CRD moving forward.

Please be advised that funding provided under the CPCSOC agreement is time limited. As Chair of the Police Board, I wanted to highlight that the current allotment of funding has been approved for the period commencing on April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2027. Funding under this Agreement is based on a reimbursement model, thus funds will be provided biannually for expensed incurred prior to each reporting period.

The CRD ICE Unit is aware of the reporting requirements and reimbursement model of this Agreement.

As this funding is part of the CPCSOC Agreement please also be advised that any public communication must be done in coordination with the BC Government.

Please contact David Haslam, Communications Director, Government Communications and Public Engagement, by email at: David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca or by telephone at: 250 952-0509 to coordinate public announcement.

I look forward to working with the Capital Regional District to announce our continued support on this important initiative and see the CRD ICE Unit continue enhancing British Columbia's response to internet child exploitation.

Sincerely,



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

pc: The Honourable Grace Lore, MLA for Victoria-Beacon Hill
The Honourable Lana Popham, MLA for Saanich South
The Honourable Murray Rankin, K.C., MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head
The Honourable Rob Fleming, MLA for Victoria-Swan Lake

The Honourable Mitzi Dean, MLA for Esquimalt - Metchosin
Chief Constable Julie Chanin, Oak Bay Police Department
Chief Constable Del Manak, Victoria Police Department
Chief Constable Dean Duthie, Saanich Police Department
Chief Constable Ian Lawson, Central Saanich Police Department
David Haslam, Communications Director, Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Jacqueline Davies, Director Policing Operations and Organized Crime
Finance Division, Policing and Security Branch



August 6th, 2024

Dear Chief Constable ^{Del}~~Del~~ Manek;

As a Director of the Swallow's Landing Social Committee I would like to acknowledge and thank you and the Victoria Police Department for allowing Cst. Stacey Fuller to present a Fraud Awareness Symposium at our Condo Residences. Her presentation was on point and she was well received by all of the Residents that attended (32). She handled their questions and provided everyone an opportunity to be heard, even though some of the questions and comments were a little off topic.

Stacey is a credit to the Victoria Police Department and a wonderful representative of Law Enforcement in Esquimalt. It is a seminar that is worth repeating again in a year or so as Scams change as do the residents of our Condos. I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation for allowing Stacey to make a wonderful and informative presentation to our group.

Thank you on behalf of the Swallow's Landing Condo Complex.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Valentine', located below the main body of the letter.

David Valentine
Social Committee Director
845/847 Dunsmuir Road
Victoria, BC V9A 0A7

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM REPORT



SUMMER 2024

The Victoria Youth Empowerment Society

Prepared for The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee



OVERVIEW

The Summer Opportunities Program (SOP) is a fun and engaging program that offers recreational, social and education activities for youth. It is offered throughout July and August and operates out of the Alliance Club drop in centre in VYES' downtown location. The program is coordinated through the SOP staff and this year worked closely with the Wellness program to offer a broader range of programming.

The Summer Opportunities Program allows the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society (YES) to offer preventative programming by addressing certain needs within the community which include: youth coming downtown in the summer seeking peer groups which can lead to unhealthy peer relationships, a lack of support being available for youth over the summer and the cost of summer activities which are becoming a significant barrier for families dealing within economic challenges.

SOP addresses these gaps by offering free recreational and social activities throughout the summer in an environment that also offers mental health supports and intervention services. This ensures that if a youth begins to destabilize or engage in unhealthy patterns of behaviours, our wrap-around service model can identify action steps and put supports in place.

This program allows youth to have access to activities that they would otherwise not be able to afford, and as such creates positive opportunities for them to engage with peers while being supported by the SOP youth worker.

S O P
O U T C O M E S

Number of Youth Who Participated In 2024 Summer Opportunities: 103

Average Number of Youth Who Participated Each Week: 22

Number of Youth Who Identified an outcome of
Improved Mental Health: 81

Number of Community Connections Made: 44

Intended Outcomes for Summer Opportunities Program

OUTCOMES CORRELATED TO EVALUATION FRAMEWORK	NUMBER OF YOUTH*
Youth experience an increase in healthy activities	103 Youth
Youth experience improved emotional well-being and coping strategies	81 Youth
Youth experienced positive peer and mentor relationships over the summer	44 Youth

Youth may experience more than one outcome*

Evaluation frameworks include spreadsheets that track the number of youth participants, feedback forms that corresponded to outcome measures and the tracking of community connections made on behalf of youth.



SOP Youth Worker and Alliance Club staff receiving donations from a community member

Throughout the summer, our Summer Opportunities Worker provided over 30 unique opportunities for youth to participate in healthy recreational activities. These activities allowed them to develop life skills while also ensuring they were connected to services throughout the summer. 103 youths attended SOP programming and were regular participants of the activities. Although there were less overall youth than last year, the youth who did engage this year had several positive outcomes. On average, 41 meals were provided to youth per week. Similar to last year, SOP recognized that food related activities would meet some basic needs around hunger, but also are an opportunity to make connections. SOP staff offered approximately 44 referrals to support youth with community resources over the summer. The most common were the following: The Kiwanis Emergency Youth Shelter, Sanctuary, and the Foundry Youth Clinic.

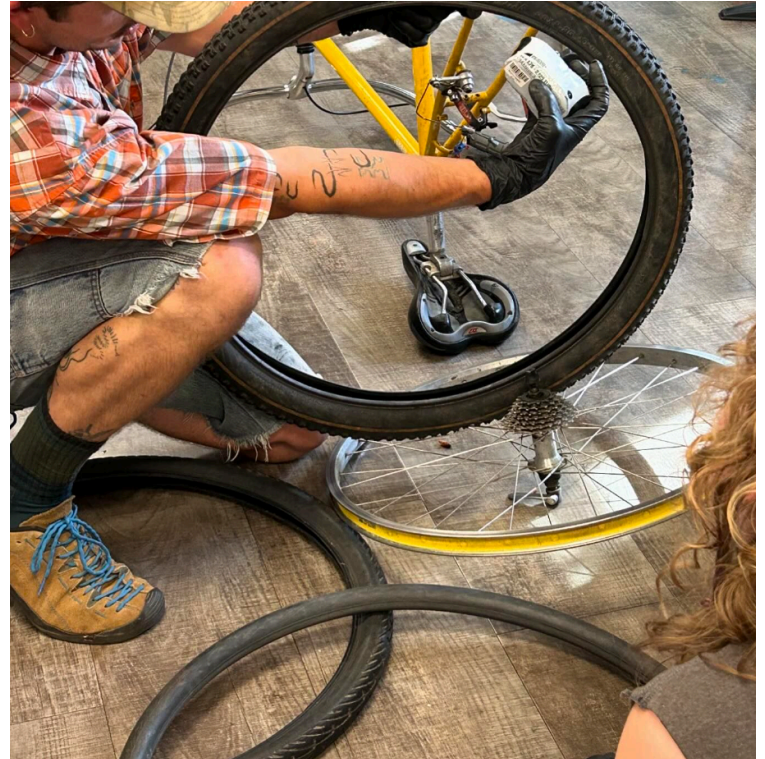
There was a good mix of art, recreation, food and other activities this year. This included art projects such as tie-dye t-shirts, tote bag painting and sticker making. For recreation, there was swimming, soccer and other outings to local Victoria sites like the Bug Zoo, Board Game Cafe and Butterfly Gardens. Our SOP staff also taught yoga, hosted a manicure event and an amazing talent show. As needed, the SOP youth worker was flexible and adapted activities to meet the interests and needs of the youth. This flexibility looked like adjusting the activity to suit their interests, as well as adjusting activity time frames. For example, many youth enjoyed the art activities, and so our SOP worker would leave out the projects day to day and youth often chose to keep working on those rather than going on an outing.

This program is popular and we begin getting phone calls and emails about it beginning in May as youth look forward to the summer offerings and knowing there is a safe and welcoming space for them. Dawn, our SOP staff, is in her third year of the program and has a kind and engaging way that encourages and welcomes participation. She inspires creativity and cooperation through her respectful and joyful presence. The consistent feedback from the youth was a sense of feeling included and that the activities were planned for them.

A highlight from the SOP this year was the talent show. This is an area of vulnerability for many youth and some were hesitant at the beginning, but staff and youth created some guidelines to ensure that it was a safe and respectful space. As such, several youth showed up and shared their talents. This included music, a magic show, poetry and storytelling. It was incredible to see some of the shy youth step forward. Although there was lots of food to celebrate, the best outcomes were the big smiles and increased confidence that shone brightly. This is a reminder to our team that creating these opportunities truly does make a difference in the lives of the youth.



Example of an SOP Week



Bike repair workshop

VYES is grateful to the Victoria Youth Family Court Youth Justice Committee for the grant that allowed us to offer the popular Summer Opportunities Program this year. SOP focuses on youth do not destabilize over the summer, providing much needed prevention programming for youth in the downtown core.

Contact Information

Victoria Youth Empowerment Society

533 Yates St, Victoria

250-383-3514

www.vyes.ca

<https://www.instagram.com/vicyouthempowermentsociety/>

GRANT-IN-AID REPORTING

FINAL REPORT FORM

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Organization Name:	Cornerstone Youth Society
Mailing Address:	PO Box 100, Victoria BC V8W 2M1
Contact Name:	Darin Reimer
Phone Number:	2503856255
Email Address:	sanctuaryyouth@outlook.com

Total Funding Received:	\$3000
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PROJECT INFORMATION	
Date of event:	2023/05/10
Location of event:	Sanctuary Youth Centre, 767 Humboldt
Name of the project, program or event:	2023 Wellness Wednesday Programming
Purpose of the project, program, or event:	To support youth in our Wellness Wednesday Program. Specifically by providing a curriculum for mental health resources.
Describe the successes of the project, program, or event and, the information that they are derived from:	<p>We continue to make our resources available to both the youth who access our space and as we are able, to like minded partners who work with youth at risk in order to assist in seeing greater and more successful mental health outcomes in the lives of youth we serve.</p> <p>We also continue to meet with youth in the hopes we are able to move them towards greater mental health outcomes using the resources provided to do so.</p>

Number of volunteers and staff:	6
Number of participants:	45
Number of participants from within the CRD:	45
Evaluation of community impact and, what that information is based on:	<p>Response to our Program and the use of curriculum has been mediocre. We feel that the youth we serve are so used to electronic or digital forms of communication that our material has been under utilized. But we continue to seek and find ways to use the material at hand for the purpose for which it was intended.</p>

--	--

BUDGET INFORMATION	
EXPENSES	AMOUNT:
Curriculum	2877.06
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$

REVENUE	CONFIRMED?	AMOUNT:
VFCYJC		3000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3000	
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$122.94	
(SURPLUS)	\$	

General Guidelines

1. A final report must be submitted to the Victoria Family Court Youth Justice Committee (VFCYJC) upon completion of the project, program, or event for which funding has been received.

2. The *Grant-in-Aid Final Report* must be submitted using the template prescribed by the VFCYJC.
3. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all required documentation and information is received by the deadline.
4. Please include a copy of all print material acknowledging the financial support of the Victoria Family Court Youth Justice Committee (including but not limited to newspaper articles, ads, press releases, programs, etc.).
5. Final reports to be emailed at:
 - Chair of the Granting Committee – MarcieMcLean@shaw.ca
 - Chair of VFC & YJC - MLittle@crd.bc.ca
cc: VFCYJC Secretary – VFCYJCadmin@crd.bc.ca

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

	2024 BOARD BUDGET	2024 JAN-OCT ACTUAL
<u>OPERATING COSTS:</u>		
Internal Allocation	316.00	263.30
Honoraria		-
Meeting Costs	8,000.00	3,869.97
Operating - Other Costs	-	391.00
Grants in aid - unspecified	48,781.00	-
Third Party Payments	1,500.00	21,046.00
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	58,597.00	25,570.27
TOTAL COSTS	58,597.00	25,570.27
Internal Recoveries	-	-
Recoveries - Other	-	-
OPERATING COSTS LESS INTERNAL RECOVERIES	58,597.00	25,570.27
<u>FUNDING SOURCES (REVENUE)</u>		
Balance C/F from Prior to Current year	(42,773.00)	(42,773.54)
Interest Income	-	(1,228.25)
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	(824.00)	(824.12)
Requisition	(15,000.00)	(15,000.01)
TOTAL REVENUE	(58,597.00)	(59,825.92)
(Surplus)Deficit	-	(34,255.65)

- 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-October 2024

Detail

Meeting Costs

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
September 2024 Secretarial (Including WCB)	409.64
Ali Baba Pizza	85.40
	<hr/>
	3,869.97

Third Party Payments / Honoraria

Pacific Centre Family Services	5,000.00
Moose Hide Campaign Development Society	300.00
Victoria Youth Empowerment	5,500.00
Umbrella Society For Addictions	4,746.00
Human Nature Counselling Society	5,500.00
	<hr/>
	21,046.00

2024 Summer Opportunities Program Financial Report



Expenses	Budget	Actual
Staff Wages (SOP worker)	\$4,320	\$4,300.80
Program Supplies	\$2,475	\$1,816.43
	\$6,795	\$6,117.23

Revenue Source	Amount
Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee	\$5,500.00
Victoria Youth Empowerment Society	\$617.23
TOTAL	\$6,117.23

1.126 Vic Family Court & Youth Justice Committee
Fiscal 2025 Preliminary Budget

	2025 BOARD BUDGET
<u>OPERATING COSTS:</u>	
Internal Allocation	1,172.00
Honoraria	
Meeting Costs	8,160.00
Operating - Other Costs	-
Grants in aid - unspecified	40,861.00
Third Party Payments	1,500.00
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	51,693.00
TOTAL COSTS	51,693.00
Internal Recoveries	-
Recoveries - Other	-
OPERATING COSTS LESS INTERNAL RECOVERIES	51,693.00
<u>FUNDING SOURCES (REVENUE)</u>	
Balance C/F from Prior to Current year	(35,869.00)
Interest Income	-
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	(824.00)
Requisition	(15,000.00)
TOTAL REVENUE	(51,693.00)
<u>(Surplus)Deficit</u>	-

- Balance carry forward is an estimate at time of budgeting August 2024, will be updated to actual for final budget approval in March 2025.

- Grants in Lieu of Taxes is an estimate based on 2024 and will be update to actual for final budget approval in March 2025.

- Format subject to change.

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



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref. 667800

July 29, 2024

His Worship Ryan Windsor
Mayor of the District of Central Saanich
Email: ryan.windsor@csaanich.ca

His Worship Kevin Murdoch
Mayor of the District of Oak Bay
Email: mayor@oakbay.ca

Her Worship Dean Murdoch
Mayor of the District of Saanich
Email: Mayor@saanich.ca

Her Worship Marianne Alto
Mayor of the City of Victoria
Email: MAalto@victoria.ca

Her Worship Barb Desjardins
Mayor of the City of Esquimalt
Email: barbara.desjardins@esquimalt.ca

Dear Mayors:

Re: ICE Funding – Capital Regional District (CRD) ICE Unit for 2024/25 Fiscal Year

I am writing to you in your respective roles as Chair of the Board for the Central Saanich, Oak Bay, Saanich and Victoria Police Departments. The Capital Regional District (CRD) Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit has been approved for funding under the federal Contribution Program to Combat Serious and Organized Crime (CPCSOC) funding agreement, which the Province administers. I am pleased to advise you that the CRD ICE Unit has been approved and will be provided with \$650,849.00 per year from the CPCSOC for fiscal years 2024/2025 – 2026/27 to support ICE staff salaries and benefits, computers and accessories for processing child sexual abuse material (CSAM), forensic investigation software and ICE training.

.../2

I am very pleased we can continue to support the excellent work of the CRD ICE Unit who I understand was originally established as a six-month pilot project from October 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022, and was the only initiative in BC that brought together existing municipal police departmental resources in an integrated team. I am advised that the CRD-ICE Unit have capitalized on the initial opportunities presented by this funding by sending one of their members for ICE training and conducting 36 ICE investigations between December 2023 and March 31, 2024. I am very confident that they will build on this track record of success and continue to enhance public safety in the CRD moving forward.

Please be advised that funding provided under the CPCSOC agreement is time limited. As Chair of the Police Board, I wanted to highlight that the current allotment of funding has been approved for the period commencing on April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2027. Funding under this Agreement is based on a reimbursement model, thus funds will be provided biannually for expensed incurred prior to each reporting period.

The CRD ICE Unit is aware of the reporting requirements and reimbursement model of this Agreement.

As this funding is part of the CPCSOC Agreement please also be advised that any public communication must be done in coordination with the BC Government.

Please contact David Haslam, Communications Director, Government Communications and Public Engagement, by email at: David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca or by telephone at: 250 952-0509 to coordinate public announcement.

I look forward to working with the Capital Regional District to announce our continued support on this important initiative and see the CRD ICE Unit continue enhancing British Columbia's response to internet child exploitation.

Sincerely,



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

pc: The Honourable Grace Lore, MLA for Victoria-Beacon Hill
The Honourable Lana Popham, MLA for Saanich South
The Honourable Murray Rankin, K.C., MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head
The Honourable Rob Fleming, MLA for Victoria-Swan Lake

The Honourable Mitzi Dean, MLA for Esquimalt - Metchosin
Chief Constable Julie Chanin, Oak Bay Police Department
Chief Constable Del Manak, Victoria Police Department
Chief Constable Dean Duthie, Saanich Police Department
Chief Constable Ian Lawson, Central Saanich Police Department
David Haslam, Communications Director, Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Jacqueline Davies, Director Policing Operations and Organized Crime
Finance Division, Policing and Security Branch

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

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



Royal Canadian
Mounted Police

Gendarmerie royale
du Canada

Security Classification/Designation
Classification/désignation sécuritaire

Supt. Todd Preston
Officer in Charge
West Shore RCMP Detachment
698 Atkins Avenue
Victoria, BC V9B 3A4

To our municipalities,

West Shore RCMP strives to deliver the best possible policing service to the West Shore. To do this we continuously assess our service delivery against the community needs and aim to do that in a cost-effective manner.

After careful analysis and consideration, West Shore RCMP has made the decision to respectfully exit the following Regional Policing Units:

- Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team (IMCRT) > Projected exit date: December 31, 2025
- Mobile Youth Service Team (MYST) > Projected exit date: December 31, 2025
- Regional Domestic Violence Unit (RDVU) > Projected exit date: Dec 31, 2026

In the past, these units provided valuable services to the West Shore. Coordinating a regional response in cost sharing arrangement made sense. Now, however, West Shore has reached a point where these services required review and it is important to understand the rationale behind West Shore RCMP's exit from these units.

Other police agencies that fund the regional units are currently reviewing their ongoing support and the feasibility of funding these units as they relate to their own community's policing needs. For example, Central Saanich Police has already withdrawn their financial support and will not provide funding in 2025.

Though we have a planned departure from the above units we are committed to remaining apart of the Greater Victoria Diversity Advisory Committee and Crime Stoppers.



Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team (IMCRT)

West Shore RCMP currently contributes \$ 74,345 annually to participate in this regional unit (as per 2025 budget).

IMCRT consists of eight professionals; including psychiatric nurses, social program officers, youth and child clinicians and police officers.

Our rationale in leaving IMCRT is that West Shore RCMP launched its own Mental Health Unit (MHU) in February 2024, creating a duplication of service. Our MHU consists of Frontline Officers who are paired with Registered Nurses from Island Health who are experienced in mental health and substance use care. Together, they respond to mental health-related calls in the West Shore. We currently have 3 police officers, funded by the West Shore municipalities, and 2 nurses attached to this unit.

The team was partially launched in February 2024 and achieved full staffing in early April. As of July 30, 2024, the MHU has responded to 513 out of 944 mental health related calls for service in the West Shore. The MHU has made 74 out of 135 total apprehensions, with the remainder made by Frontline Officers as the MHU does not have 24-hour availability at this time. West Shore RCMP's goal is to work toward 24-hour service for this unit.

Comparatively, IMCRT has responded to only 35 calls for service in the West Shore from January 2023 to July 2024.

West Shore RCMP Mental Health Unit teams are responding with a timely, supportive and empathetic approach to the individual experiencing a crisis, along with their families and caregivers. MHU provides the right supports at the right time via the best possible response. We believe our West Shore Mental Health Unit has not only met but exceeded the service capacity of IMCRT, therefore we made the decision to exit this regional unit.

Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST)

West Shore RCMP currently contributes \$ 37,349 annually to participate in this regional unit (as per 2025 budget).

The MYST was created in 2001 to address sexually exploited youth in the CRD. MYST is enabled by area police departments that support a police officer position that deals with high-risk youth from ages 13 to 18. MYST currently has 1 police officer and 1 social worker that are shared amongst 6 police agencies in the CRD.

MYST, has responded to only 15 calls for service in the West Shore in the last 1.5 year period (from January 2023 to July 2024).



West Shore RCMP recognizes that specialized services with a focus on at-risk youth is a priority, therefore we created the position of Youth Outreach Officer in 2021. The Youth Outreach Officer's mandate is to focus on at-risk youth via a partnership with Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA). Our Youth Outreach Officer works with a dedicated youth counsellor from PCFSA. Together, they work as a team addressing at-risk youth by being both proactive and referral based. They focus on mentoring and prevention strategies. This team offers more concentrated efforts on the West Shore.

The Community Policing Unit supports the efforts of the Youth Outreach Team. The Community Policing Unit also takes on the role of School Liaison Officers in School District 62 (SD62). These officers continue to visit SD62 schools on a daily basis and maintain a supportive working relationship with both students and staff. These strong relationships allow for prevention and early intervention for at-risk youth. The West Shore Detachment expanded the current 3 officer SLO team by adding another in the Spring of 2024.

Regional Domestic Violence Unit (RDVU)

West Shore RCMP currently contributes \$121,827 plus \$115,350 (salary of 1 Constable), annually to participate in this regional unit (Approx. \$237,177 as per 2025 budget).

The RDVU provides follow-up services to select high-risk domestic violence cases where there is a need for intensive victim/family support. The team includes police, community-based victim service providers, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).

West Shore RCMP created its own Domestic Violence Investigator position in Spring, 2024 and will expand that to 2 full time police officers in Spring, 2026 with the return of the RDVU investigator to provide services on the West Shore. These officers will work closely with community and criminal justice partners to fulfill the same mandate RDVU does, but will of course be focused on clients exclusively on the West Shore.

The West Shore IPV Unit will also be supported by the existing Special Victim's Unit (SVU) which is comprised of 4 police officers along with the Investigative Support Team (IST will be comprised of 5 police officers, expected to be operational in November 2024).

SVU/IST officers are highly skilled and specifically trained in critical investigative techniques such as: interviewing children, writing search warrants and monitoring victims who are at risk of being re-victimized. SVU investigators routinely connect with other agencies who are also providing supports to victims as well as hold training sessions with Frontline officers to ensure



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Classification/désignation sécuritaire

our investigations are conducted from a trauma-informed perspective.

Given the crossover between SVU/IST/IPV and RDVU mandates, West Shore RCMP has elected to withdraw our financial support from RDVU, choosing instead to focus on enhancing our service delivery to the West Shore communities.

In conclusion, a rapidly growing populous in West Shore has created the need for enhanced policing services for the residents of the West Shore. Staying on top of current policing trends and community needs is a top priority for our detachment therefore, re-investing our resources to support existing and new West Shore RCMP units will better serve our communities.

Respectfully,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Superintendent Todd Preston, Officer in Charge of West Shore RCMP

SUB-COMMITTEES

We ask that members join one of the sub-committees to assist in developing materials to bring forward to the main committee. Meetings may be held via email, at any appropriate venue, and chairs may incur expenses up to \$200 to facilitate meetings without advance approval. Chairs are encouraged to present a motion to the main committee for extraordinary expenses. Our goal is to make it easier for volunteers to meet while still maintaining fiscal accountability. The practice has been to try to reserve funding for work that supports youth and families while also supporting those who give freely of their time and expertise.

Priorities reviews completed applications in conjunction with existing VFCYJC policies and makes a recommendation in the form of a proposed motion together with their rationale to the main committee for their consideration at a regular meeting.

Communications supports outgoing communications, website content, advocacy efforts, agenda creation, and maintenance of the Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Youth & Family Matters brings information to the main committee on Family Matters, Youth Matters and monitors the circumstances that youth and families encounter during separation, divorce, and custody arrangements as well as documenting hot button issues for youth and encourages youth involvement.

Court Watch coordinates Native and regular Court House visits to observe and report on the circumstances for youth and families.

CRAT stands for Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth. It advocates with expertise to address issues related to sexual exploitation, grooming, pimping, coercion, youth sex work and pornography.

