



**VICTORIA FAMILY COURT & YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE**  
**Notice of Meeting on Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 11:30 am**  
**CRD Boardroom, 6th Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC**

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

**Agenda**

1. Territorial Acknowledgement
2. Approval of the Agenda  
***Recommendation: That the agenda for Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of June 26, 2025 be approved.***
3. Adoption of Minutes
  - 3.1. Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Meeting of April 24, 2025 (attachment, page 4)  
***Recommendation: That the minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting held April 24, 2025 be adopted as circulated.***
  - 3.2. Notes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Steering Committee meeting of April 10, 2025 (attachment, page 8)  
***Recommendation: That the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee notes of April 10, 2025 be received for information.***
4. Chairperson's Remarks
5. Presentations/Delegations (10-minute maximum per presentation)
  - 5.1. Resource Agencies
  - 5.2. [Dr. Rebecca Nelems](#), author of the Sept. 2024 [MYST Business Case Report](#). See VFCYJC Chair's letter dated Dec. 23, 2024 (attachment, page 9) and Collaboration for Change: Addressing Youth Gang Exploitation in Greater Victoria.
  - 5.3. [Ryan Labelle](#), Pixel Makers Creative re: [proposal for enhancing digital engagement and website infrastructure](#) (attachment, page 12)
  - 5.4. [David Segal](#), Executive Director, [Human-Nature Counselling Society](#) re: outcomes report on 2024 VFCYJC grant (attachment, page 14)
6. Sub-Committee Business
  - 6.1. Priorities and Grants (M. McLean)
    - 6.1.1. Victoria Youth Empowerment Society application (attachment, page 20)  
***Recommendation: "That the Priorities Sub-committee recommends to Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee, that the grant application request of \$8,000.00 (the full amount) from the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society (YES) be approved for YES's temporary pilot project as outlined in their grant application of June 11, 2025 for the Alliance Club Youth Pathways Project Support Worker with a proposed completion date of January 15, 2026."***

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

6.2.1. CRAT Meeting Notes of June 17, 2025 (attachment, page 36)

6.2.2. Update report, including PDF of graphic novel (attachment, page 39)

- Link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eL4V23y7NgGSo5wfSBy-3aSCIEp-t9Bk?usp=sharing>

6.3. Family and Youth Matters (R. Stanton)

6.4. Court Watch (M. Little)

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

6.5. Communications (J. Bateman)

6.5.1. Letter to Attorney General Sharma dated June 6 re: Cathy Peters recommendations (attachment, page 40)

6.5.2. Update ~ Calls to Action for Children, Youth, Students and their Families on matters pertaining to safety, education, health, poverty and prevention (Marcie McLean)

6.5.3. Access Pro Bono's Jamie Maclaren presentation at the April 24 VFCYJC meeting. (See [website meeting summary to view his power point.](#))

6.5.4. Open House 2026 – lessons learned and preliminary discussion for next year (Marie-Terese Little/Marnie Essery)

7. Committee Business

7.1. Treasurer's Report (Esther Paterson)

7.2. Discussion about VFCYJC website

8. New Business

9. Correspondence

9.1. Email from Cathy Peters, June 11, 2025 re: VFCYJC Advocacy (attachment, page 42)

10. Notice(s) of Motion

- 10.1. M. McLean (with same day consideration) – [\(attachment, page 44\)](#)  
**"That Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (VFC&YJC) hold an in-person Panel Discussion on one of the following 2 (two) 2025 dates:  
A Special meeting on Thursday, September 18th, 2025 for only the Panel Discussion and no other VFC&YJC other unnecessary business, or, on Thursday October 23, 2025 a scheduled meeting.**  
**The purpose of the proposed Panel Discussion would be to have invited representatives from the current 3 Integrated Regional Units/Teams being the:  
Integrated Regional Mobile Crisis Response Team (IRMCRT)(Island Health), the Integrated Regional Domestic Violence Unit (RIDVU), and, the Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) as it is these 3 specific Units/Teams that the District of Central Saanich Police Board and, the Westshore RCMP Commander are planning to withdraw funding of the tax payer's financial portions for the police officers to these 3 Integrated Regional Units/Teams.**  
**The panel discussions intent would focus on their Units/Teams, purpose, work and need throughout Greater Victoria plus, the future of these Units/Teams and/or impacts, and to increase awareness and educate VFC&YJC members.**  
**VFC&YJC would also invite Police Chief Ian Lawson from the District of Central Saanich Police Board or, an alternate from the Central Saanich Police Board and, Westshore RCMP Superintendent Todd Preston or, an alternate, to also attend in-person to each speak to their rationale for withdrawing from these 3 above noted Unit/Teams including providing accurate Unit/Team data such as call outs for 2024 -2025 and financial data as well such as accurate "municipal financial contributions" for the police officer staff for these 3 Integrated Regional Teams/Units.**  
**VFC&YJC would also invite Chief Constable Fiona Wilson Victoria/Esquimalt Police Department or, an alternate, to participate in-person for perspectives on each of these 3 Integrated Regional Unit/Teams for the Greater Victoria Areas."**
- 10.2. Notice of Motion (with same day consideration) – Little  
**"THAT Chair Little write BC Attorney General Niki Sharma in support of the following recommendation raised with the Committee by Access Pro Bono's Jamie Maclaren, namely Recommendation #4 from his 2019 report for the Attorney General titled Roads to Revival: An External Review of Legal Aid Service Delivery in British Columbia:  
Task and support an independent body, like Access to Justice BC, the Access to Justice Centre for Excellence or the Office of the Auditor General, to coordinate the collection and analysis of standardized performance data across BC's justice system."**

## 11. Adjournment

Roundtable to be held after adjournment, time permitting.

Location and Dates of Upcoming Meetings – Oct. 23, 2025, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm in the CRD Boardroom and via Zoom unless otherwise notified.



**Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting held Thursday April 24, 2025, CRD Boardroom, 6th floor, 625 Fisgard Street**

**Present:**

M. Little (Chair), K. Guiry (Vice Chair), J. Bateman (EP), C. Beaton (for C. Lervold) (EP), C. Chaytors (EP), S. Kim, K. Marshall (EP), B. McElroy (EP), M. McLean, T. O'Keefe (EP), M. Olsen (EP), E. Paterson, S. Rapoport (EP), S. Riddell, M. Westhaver (EP)

**Staff:** S. Orr, Senior Committee Clerk; M. Essery, Recorder (EP)

**Guests:** E. James, Umbrella Society; K. Petersen, Youth Empowerment Society; R. Labelle, Honeycomb Webworks (EP); J. McLaren, Access Pro Bono, (EP); R. Stanton, District of Highlands (EP)

**Regrets:** K. Armour, D. Brown, A. Holeton, C. Lervold, T. Vanwell

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am.

**1. Territorial Acknowledgement**

Chair Little provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED** by S. Kim, **SECONDED** by M. McLean,

**That the agenda for Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of April 24, 2025 be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

**3.1 Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Meeting of January 23, 2025**

**MOVED** by K. Guiry, **SECONDED** by S. Kim,

**That the minutes of Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of January 23, 2025 be adopted.**

**CARRIED**

**3.2 Notes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Steering Committee meeting of April 10, 2025**

**MOVED** by S. Kim, **SECONDED** by S. Riddell,

**That the notes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee meeting of April 10, 2025 be received.**

**CARRIED**

**4. Chairperson's Remarks**

There were no Chair's remarks.

## **5. Presentations/Delegations**

### **5.1 Resource Agencies**

There were no presentations.

### **5.2 Jamie Maclaren KC, Barrister & Solicitor**

J. Bateman introduced J. Maclaren.

Jamie is Access Pro Bono's Founding Executive Director. He's a practising civil litigator and a former Executive Director of the UBC Law Students' Legal Advice Program and Pro Bono Law of BC. He volunteers as a law instructor for people overcoming homelessness and addiction and regularly provides pro bono legal services in his East Vancouver community. He's also a Life Bencher of the Law Society of BC. In 2019, Jamie conducted an external review of legal aid service delivery in BC for the province's Attorney General. [Jamie Maclaren](#), Executive Director, [Access Pro Bono](#), and author, [Roads to Revival: An External Review of Legal Aid Service Delivery in British Columbia](#) (Also see 2021 [VFCYJC advocacy letter to the Province re: this review](#)) He joined us for our 2021 Annual General Meeting and VFCYJC is delighted to welcome him back today. Mr. Maclaren shared a PowerPoint presentation with the committee. The link to the PowerPoint presentation will be emailed to committee members after this meeting. Mr. Maclaren was thanked for joining us and for his work.

### **5.3 Evan James, Manager of Strategic Initiatives, Umbrella Society:**

Evan presented the Grant outcomes report "Navigating Substance Use and Mental Health for Students" and presented the Umbrella Society for Addictions and Mental Health Grant Report. He expressed gratitude for receiving funding from VFCYJC and stressed the importance of meeting youth where they're at.

## **6. Committee Business**

### **6.1 Election of Treasurer**

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Treasurer of the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee for 2025.

M. McLean nominated E. Paterson. E. Paterson accepted the nomination.

The Chair called for nominations a second time.

The Chair called for nominations a third and final time.

Hearing no further nominations, the Chair declared E. Paterson for the position of Treasurer of the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee for 2025.

### **6.2 Annual Open House 2025, City of Victoria Ante Chamber, Wednesday, May 28, 3 to 6 p.m.**

There will be a future offline meeting about the invitations and reminders.

### **6.3. Integrated Regional Teams/Units for Greater Victoria 2022-2023 Annual Report (shared for the Committee's information by Marcie McLean)**

M. McLean spoke to Item 6.3.

Discussion ensued regarding hosting a panel discussion at a future meeting with the purpose of sharing and increased awareness between the regional police units.

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

### **7.1 Priorities and Grants (M. McLean)**

**7.1.1 Evan James, Manager of Strategic Initiatives for Umbrella Society: Grant outcomes report re: the [Navigating Substance Use and Mental Health for Students](#) program.**

M. McLean spoke to Item 7.1.1.

**MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by K. Guiry  
That this report be received for information.  
CARRIED**

### **7.2 Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (B. McElroy)**

7.2.1 MYST West Shore working group update

B. McElroy spoke to Item 7.2.1.

**MOVED by B. McElroy, SECONDED by K. Guiry  
That this report be received for information.  
CARRIED**

#### **7.2.2. CRAT Meeting notes of April 15, 2025**

B. McElroy spoke to Item 7.2.2.

**MOVED by B. McElroy, SECONDED by K. Guiry  
That the CRAT meeting notes of April 15, 2025 be received for information.  
CARRIED**

### **7.3 Family and Youth Matters (R. Stanton).**

There was no report.

### **7.4 Court Watch (M. Little)**

#### **7.4.1 Discussion about need, feasibility and future of this sub-committee**

This discussion will be tabled until the June 26, 2025 meeting.

### **7.5. Communications (J. Bateman)**

#### **7.5.1. Website update –Honeycomb Web Services’ Ryan Labelle**

R. Labelle briefly shared recommendations on how to improve the committee’s website. R. Labelle will be invited back to the June 26, 2025 meeting and he was asked to email a proposal that would be shared with committee members.

**7.5.2. Future meeting speakers** – June 26 ~ Dr. Rebecca Nelems, author of the MYST Business Case Report; for consideration: Foundry’s Kathy Easton; BC Representative of Children & Youth Jennifer Charlesworth; Cedar Dodd, BC First Nations Justice Council; Cheryl Chaytors, Boys and Girls Club; representative of the Victoria Native Friendship Centre; representative from the Integrated Regional Domestic Violence Unit.

#### **7.5.3. SPLO Backgrounder updated April 15, 2025**

This was shared for committee members information.

#### **7.5.4. Deletion or pause on posting to the VFCYJC X account Communications**

**J. Bateman spoke to Item 7.5.4.**

**MOVED by J. Bateman, SECONDED by S. Kim**  
**To pause posting on X account.**  
**CARRIED**

#### **8. Treasurer's Report**

There was no report.

#### **9. New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **10. Correspondence**

**10.1. Letter from The District of North Saanich, dated February 28, 2025**

**10.2. Letter from The District of Highlands, dated February 21, 2025**

**MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by S. Kim**  
**That the correspondence be received for information.**  
**CARRIED**

#### **11. Notice(s) of Motion**

**11.1. Motion with Notice from Jeff Bateman submitted Jan. 23, 2025:**

**MOVED BY J. Bateman, SECONDED By K. Guiry**  
**THAT Chair Little write BC Attorney General Nikki Sharma in support of recommendations raised with the Committee by the Be Amazing campaign's Cathy Peters, namely:**

- **Funding/training for law enforcement to better enforce the federal Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act.**
- **A BC provincial public awareness campaign.**
- **A human trafficking task force in BC similar to those in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.**

**CARRIED**

#### **12. Adjournment**

**MOVED by K. Guiry, SECONDED by S. Kim,**  
**That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee meeting of April 24, 2025 be adjourned at 1:23 pm.**  
**CARRIED**

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**Chair**

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**Committee Clerk**

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee Notes  
June 12, 2025 11:30am

Attending: Chair Little, Vice Chair Guiry, Bill, Ester, Marcie, Jeff, Marnie

- Need to work on condensing the minutes, not as much detail needed
- The chair will reflect on the success of the Open House on May 28th,
- Add discussion later in the agenda to get feedback on how to improve the open house process next
- Marnie to give feedback to the chair on stats from the resource agencies for the open house
- Chair Little to get confirmation on attendance and topics for Presentations/Delegations
- Specifics and subheadings added to the sub-committee business for clarity
- Addition of a presentation to support the priority and grants business
- Include recent response from Cathy Peter as correspondence
- Addition of a discussion on VFCYJC website under New Business
- Final discussion on updates for Notice of Motion and Request for same day consideration

Next Steering Committee meeting is currently scheduled for October 9, 2025





December 23, 2024

To: Each Mayor & Council of the Greater Victoria Area, Capital Regional District (CRD) Board members all being participants, and Juan De Fuca Electoral Areas(s) for the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (VFC&YJC), and Regional Governance Council - Integrated Police Units

Dear All,

At its regular meeting of November 28, 2024, the VFC&YJC passed the following motion:

***"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 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 its recommendations"***

**Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST): Critical Status Report and Recommendations** was prepared by Dr. Rebeccah Nelems, PhD and released June 2024. Dr. Nelems provides three main recommendations:

- 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.***

As you are likely aware, the VFC&YJC has been advocating to the Province for expanded staffing and stable, long-term funding for MYST since 2021. The CRD Board of Directors and municipal councils representing Colwood, Highlands, Langford, Metchosin, Oak Bay, Sooke and Victoria have also submitted letters to the Province in strong support of MYST.

The VFC&YJC's latest position on what we deem an essential service is fully captured in an op-ed published in the [Victoria Times Colonist on Oct. 23](#).

As it states: *"The region needs more MYST teams, not fewer. This unique service bridges the gap between social services, health, education and justice systems, catching youth who might otherwise fall through the cracks."*

*The potential loss of this vital and proven counselling resource is not in line with the province's announced goals to address the issues facing vulnerable youth and their families in our complex, anxious modern society. Trusted relationships built through this specialized and high-functioning team cannot be lost due to an interruption of service."*

**The VFC&YJC strongly urges your councils, boards and elected representatives to carefully read Dr. Nelems's report while considering how we all in the Greater Victoria Area can best support our most vulnerable young people.**

Sincerely,

Marie-Térèse Little, Chair, VFC&YJC  
Mayor, District of Metchosin  
Vice-Chair, Capital Regional District

Please consider copying your letters of support to the Premier and following **Provincial Ministers**:

- \*Premier of BC David Eby,
- \*Attorney General & Deputy Premier: Honourable Niki Sharma,
- \*Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General: Honourable Gary Begg,
- \*Minister of Health: Honourable Josie Osbourne,
- \*Minister of Children and Family Development: Honourable Grace Lore,
- \*Minister of Education and Child Care: Honourable Lisa Beare,
- \*Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation: Honourable Christine Boyle,
- \*Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction: Honourable Sheila Malcolmson,
- \*Minister of State for Child Care and Children and Youth with Support needs: Honourable Jodie Wickens,
- \*Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services: Honourable Terry Yung,
- \*And Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (for our records).

As well as to **Federal Members of Parliament:**

- \*The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc- Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions & Intergovernmental Affairs,
- \*The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos- Minister of Public Services and Procurement,
- \*The Honourable Sean Fraser -Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities,
- \*The Honourable-Mark Holland- Minister of Health,
- \*The Honourable Marci Len- Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth,
- \*The Honourable-Ya'ara Saks- Minister of Mental Health and Addictions,
- \*The Honourable Jenna Sudds- Minister of Families, Children and Social Development,
- \*The Honourable Arif Virani- Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

**Additionally to:** Leader of the NDP- Jagmeet Singh, House Leader of the NDP- Peter Julian, Standing Committee on Health, and Member of Parliament- Laurel Collins, NDP Critic for Families Children and Social Development

### **About the VFCYJC**

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee was founded in 1966 under the [BC Provincial Court Act](#) and expanded under the Federal [Youth Criminal Justice Act](#). The VFCYJC is a Delegated Commission of the Capital Regional District as established by [Bylaw No. 4453](#). Our objectives, as per this bylaw, are the following: *“(a) to identify, inform, educate, advocate for, and report on, gaps in regional resources for youth justice and family court issues; (b) to act as a resource for the public and youth & family organizations; (c) to encourage collaboration between and visibility of community services.”*

For more information, visit the [VFC&YJC website](#) and our [meetings & agendas](#) archive.

Thank you.

**To:** Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee  
**From:** Ryan Labelle / Pixel Makers Creative  
**Date:** April 24th, 2025  
**Subject:** Proposal for Enhancing Digital Engagement and Website Infrastructure

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to propose a series of improvements to the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee's digital tools and website infrastructure. These enhancements are designed to strengthen engagement, improve usability, and support the Committee's mission through modern, efficient technology.

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## Proposal Summary

### 1. Boost Member Engagement

- Introduce subscription options for blog and resource updates via email or text messages.
- Add members-only commenting and discussion areas to facilitate meaningful dialogue and collaboration.

*Benefit:* Increases active participation, strengthens connections among members, and ensures timely communication on key topics.

### 2. Enhance Library Tools and Resource Organization

- Upgrade the site's search functionality with keyword tagging and related content links.
- Reorganize resource content for improved clarity and accessibility.

*Benefit:* Enables users to find relevant information faster and more intuitively, supporting both internal use and public access.

### 3. Improve Advocacy Through Online Tools

- Allow users to compose and send advocacy letters or requests directly from the website.

*Benefit:* Simplifies the advocacy process and empowers the community to take meaningful action on issues that matter.

### 4. Encourage Application Submissions

- Replace downloadable PDF forms with user-friendly online applications.

*Benefit:* Streamlines the submission process, reduces administrative workload, and encourages more timely, complete applications.

## **5. Improve Overall Usability and Content Organization**

- Conduct a usability review and restructure the site's content to prioritize user-friendly navigation and accessibility.

*Benefit:* Enhances the overall user experience, ensuring the site serves a wide audience including youth, families, and justice stakeholders.

## **6. Upgrade Website Infrastructure**

- Implement a modern website theme and a live page builder for future flexibility.

*Benefit:* Provides a visually appealing, mobile-responsive platform that staff can easily update without relying on technical support.

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## **Conclusion**

These proposed enhancements offer practical, impactful solutions to modernize the Committee's digital presence, encourage greater engagement, and amplify the effectiveness of its advocacy work. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal in more detail and look forward to supporting the Committee in bringing these improvements to life.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Labelle  
Pixel Makers Creative Inc.

**250-516-2921**

## GRANT-IN-AID REPORTING FINAL REPORT FORM

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Organization Name:	<b>Human Nature Counselling Society</b>
Mailing Address:	<b>743 Vancouver Street, Victoria BC, V8V3V4</b>
Contact Name:	<b>David Segal, Executive Director</b>
Phone Number:	<b>250-588-7214</b>
Email Address:	<a href="mailto:david@humannaturecounselling.ca">david@humannaturecounselling.ca</a>

Total Funding Received:	<b>\$5500</b>
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PROJECT INFORMATION	
Date of event:	Intake: March 1st - April 6th; Program delivery: April 6th-May 28
Location of event:	Government House Gardens and online sessions for parents
Name of the project, program or event:	New Roots: Youth Anxiety Nature-based Therapy Group
Purpose of the project, program, or event:	<p>New Roots is a nature-based mental health program for youth who are looking to develop healthy strategies to cope with stress and anxiety. HNCS provides this program to youth ages 11-14 (middle school) who are self-motivated to participate in a supportive group counselling environment to take charge of the way anxiety and worry is impacting their lives. Within a supportive group of peers, youth have the chance to pause from the hectic demands of life to reconnect with their Self, a supportive peer group, and the natural world. Participants engage in team initiatives, psycho-education, mindfulness practices, environmental restoration, nature connection, and learn effective tools for cultivating a peaceful state of mind. Facilitators expand on the youth's resources to take charge of anxiety and worry, and redefine its impact on their life. HNCS's goal with this program is for participating youth to have a rich understanding and appreciation for their strengths and resources, along with specific strategies for overcoming the difficulties associated with anxiety.</p> <p>Another highlight of New Roots is the parent sessions. HNCS offers 3 evening sessions for parents/guardians to gather together in community to learn strategies for best supporting their youth as they navigate through</p>

	<p>life. We value a family systems approach to well-being, where parents/guardians are learning the same tools as their youth, and can be on the same page in tackling stress and anxiety (which us adults often experience too). Each session is tailored to the needs of that group of parents, and presents topics such as understanding anxiety and how it impacts our nervous system; the avoidance cycle; strategies for connecting with your youth; and helping parents/ youth take charge of anxiety.</p> <p>The original grant application was intended to deliver two iterations of this program, but with timing of the grant decision, the program was offered this spring with another program planned for the fall. The funds from the VFC &amp; YJC were fully used to deliver the Spring program. Thank you for your support!</p>
Describe the successes of the project, program, or event and, the information that they are derived from:	<p>This year's program saw a group of socially anxious teens take courageous steps toward connection and growth. All participants identified as experiencing anxiety, particularly in social settings, and expressed a desire to build friendships. Impressively, every youth in the program reported forming new friendships through the group, marking a profound outcome for individuals who had previously described themselves as isolated or hesitant to engage socially.</p> <p>The natural setting, creative activities, and relational safety provided a powerful container for transformation. Through art projects designed to externalize and express internal experiences, youth were able to see and reflect on their anxiety in a tangible way. Mindfulness and meditation practices supported nervous system regulation, while psychoeducation offered understanding around anxiety, the brain, thought patterns, and self-compassion.</p> <p>One of the most effective components this year was the inclusion of social and emotional learning exercises. These helped youth become more comfortable with one another and supported meaningful social risk-taking in a structured, supportive context. Facilitators also modeled vulnerability by sharing their own experiences with anxiety during adolescence, which helped to normalize emotional challenges and build trust within the group.</p> <p>We also introduced parts work—a developmentally appropriate adaptation of Internal Family Systems therapy which invited participants to explore and relate to their anxious thoughts and feelings with more compassion and curiosity. This added a new dimension to self-awareness and helped youth name and interact with their inner experiences more clearly.</p> <p>The work with parents also had a significant impact. Parents reported that the psychoeducation they were learning with us was opening up conversations with their teens and parents reflected on how their own</p>

	<p>anxiety was showing up in their connection to their teen. The parents reported trusting the facilitators and feeling more self efficacy to show up supportively with their teens.</p> <p>-Jessica Neary MA, RCC Program Facilitator's observations</p>
Number of volunteers and staff:	<b>4:</b> 1 Masters Level Counsellor, 1 Masters Level Practicum Student, 1 Clinical Supervisor, 1 Master's level Parent Support Counsellor
Number of participants:	<b>12</b>
Number of participants from within the CRD:	<b>12</b>
Evaluation of community impact and, what that information is based on:	<p>Seven families participated in the spring session of the <b>New Roots</b> program. Each family had a youth struggling with anxiety that was significantly impacting their ability to function at home, at school, and in daily life. Over the course of eight sessions, youth gathered for two hours at <b>Government House Gardens</b> to engage in nature-based, trauma-informed mental health support.</p> <p>Parents also took part in three dedicated sessions focused on understanding anxiety and learning practical strategies to better support their children. When including additional family members indirectly affected, the program reached approximately <b>21 people</b> — a number that grows even further when we consider the youth's peers at school, the parents' workplaces, and their broader social networks.</p> <p>While these numbers may appear modest, it's important to recognize that <b>mental health struggles are complex and their impact can be life-altering</b>. Early, effective intervention is essential for long-term well-being. At <b>Human-Nature Counselling</b>, we believe in making a <b>deep, lasting impact with a few</b>, rather than a superficial one with many. We trust that the positive ripple effects of this program will continue to spread through families, schools, and the wider community.</p> <p><b>Access to responsive, effective, and no-cost mental health support is critical</b> in ensuring that a person's struggle doesn't become a life sentence. The positive feedback collected through participant surveys, combined with consistently strong attendance, demonstrates that this program not only helped reduce stigma around mental health, but also increased awareness of accessible, community-based support.</p> <p>Our hope is that the benefits of <b>New Roots</b> extend far beyond immediate improvements in managing anxiety. The next time these youth, their</p>



	families, or their friends face a mental health challenge, they'll know that help is available — and that it can truly make a difference.
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Outcome Data	
Parent Surveys	Average Change
My youth knows how to talk about their feelings with others	1.25
My youth can handle challenges that come up on a typical day	1.25
My youth can use a strategy or technique to help when they are feeling big emotions	1.25
My youth feels good about who they are	1
My youth has tools for coping with anxiety and/or worry	1.75
My youth has the skills they need to connect with others and make friends	1.25
My youth has a sense of belonging at school	0.5
My youth has positive connections with their peers	0
My youth has a sense of belonging in our family	0
My youth feels connected to nature	0.25
My youth knows how to care for nature	0.5

Parent scores on post-pre surveys indicated change across all outcome areas except connection to peers and sense of belonging to family. The highest scores were recorded in their observation of their youth having tools for coping with anxiety and worry. Further, their youth's abilities to talk and manage their feelings, handle daily challenges, and improvement in social skills also increased by more than a 1.0 point on the 1-5 likert scale used in the survey.

## Satisfaction Questions

The program met my expectations and hopes: **100% of parents surveyed reported strongly agree**

Positive changes in my youth: **100% of parents surveyed reported strongly agree**

When asked to elaborate on the impact the following answers were provided:

"[My child is] happier and more talkative and has decreased social anxiety;"

"She seems less quick to judge peers before interacting them, which in the past would prevent her from trying at all."

"Courage. She can handle a challenging day, and still attended school rather than staying home"

"The program allowed her to interact and practice skills more freely and the leaders were personal friendly and empathetic. The program wasn't rigid and there was no homework"

Outcome Data	
Youth Surveys	Average Change
I know how to talk about their feelings with others	0.4
I can handle challenges that come up on a typical day	0.8
I can use a strategy or technique to help when I am feeling big emotions	1
I feel good about who I am	0.4
I have tools for coping with anxiety and/or worry	0
I have a sense of belonging at school	0.4
I have positive connections with my peers	0.6
I have the skills I need to connect with others and make friends	0.6
I have a sense of belonging to my family	0
I feel connected to my culture	0
I feel connected to nature	0.6

Youth scores on post-pre surveys also indicated change across all outcome areas except their tools, sense of belonging to family and feeling connected to culture. The highest change was indicated in their ability to use a strategy or technique to help manage big emotions. The change reported from the youth survey responses were not as large as the parent reports. However, we are aware that the youth were not as engaged in the evaluation process as the parents, which could explain some of the difference.

#### Satisfaction Questions:

My hopes and goals for the program were met: **100% of youth reported that they agree or strongly agree.**

I found the program enjoyable: **80% of the youth reported that they agree or strongly agree.**

"I had hoped to make a friend, which I think we made friends enough to talk in the future:)"

"I loved being in this area. Seeing the deer friends and nature"

"I enjoyed the activities and meditations we did"

"I liked getting to spend time in nature and meet new people who were nice."

"I liked the chance to be creative"; "I thought it was really nice"

BUDGET INFORMATION	
EXPENSES	AMOUNT:
Planning and Facilitation (8 group programs and 3 parent sessions)	\$3960
Clinical Supervision	\$725.00
Equipment and Supplies	\$150.00
Healthy Snacks and Drinks	\$465
Travel	\$200
Overhead (program insurance, administrative support, office expenses etc.)	\$825
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6325</b>

REVENUE	CONFIRMED?	AMOUNT:
Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee	Yes	\$5500
Courtnall Society for Mental Health	Yes	\$825
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$6325</b>	
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>(SURPLUS)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

### 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:

June 20, 2025

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

**From:** member Marcie McLean, Priorities sub-committee, Chair

**Subject:** Grant application received June 11, 2025 from the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society (YES)     [www.vyes.ca](http://www.vyes.ca)

**Background:**

The applicant has provided all of the required documentation and the Priorities sub-committee (sub-committee) members, have each reviewed the application.

Previous grant applications from YES and a facility site visit by VFC&YJC in Nov. 2024 plus, an ad hoc presentation that same day at VFC&YJC's meeting where the Operations Director provided further insight as to the work that is done by YES and some of the many gaps in services for vulnerable and marginalized youth living within the Greater Victoria areas (CRD).

Of the documentation received the applicant's application only has been provided with this agenda material for members of VFC&YJC who wish to read it for themselves.

The applicant is requesting \$8,000.00 for their intended pilot project for the Alliance Club Youth Pathway's Project for a temporary one-time support worker for 12 hours per week, for 6 months anticipated to commence July 15, 2025 and ending Jan. 15, 2026. And, will take place mostly at YES's facility on Yates St at the Alliance Club and meeting rooms etc. for Victoria youth aged 12-19 years. The funding request is also for program supplies such as: ID fees, transportation to appointments & snacks. YES would contribute \$2,360.00 from their own fund raising budget. Their proposed project budget is on page 9 of their application.

It is an ambitious pilot project. The needs/problems that YES plans to address through the pilot project work are summarized here and, located on page 4 of their application in their entirety.

From page 5, for youth aged 12-19 with emerging needs and from the CRD area to reduce significant barriers to accessing critical support services and reduce wait list periods (often 2-6 months) for programs like mental health counselling, housing, and family mediation.

YES intends to provide short-term, flexible interventions, advocacy, and system navigation services to youth currently waiting for long-term support at YES, where they currently have over 70 youth waiting to immediately access their support services.

The applicant believes that this proposed short-term program project for their application would enhance support for these youth and provide needed interventions over the next 6 months.

The proposed project would prioritize work such as: immediate assessment prioritization of support needs for these youths on wait lists and, early risk reduction by addressing emerging challenges before they escalate into crisis that could involve the justice system, provide connections sooner so these youth do not become a result in need of crisis intervention.

Information from page 4 of their application: The Alliance Club on Yates St is positioned to house their proposed intervention pilot project as it already serves as a critical access point for marginalized youth in Greater Victoria. YES already provides wrap around support services for youth (see page 5 of the application) which the temporary contracted support worker can access such as: mental health services, family counselling, and housing assistance which the applicant indicates ensures a continuum of care, with this unique low-barriers approach to stabilizing the youth during the critical summer period, helping bridge gaps in services and build resilience, ultimately reducing justice system involvement from the applicant's perspective and experience.

The proposed pilot project's "objectives" are on page 6 of the application. Pages 7 & 8 outline in detail the intended work that the Alliance Club Youth Pathways Project Support Worker would do.

Data on service delivery & demographics would be compiled and reviewed monthly and YES will assess the project's "outcomes" and complete a final report to VFC&YJC (which is a requirement of any approved application).

Their proposed project budget on page 9 of their application indicates:

Requested grant amount of \$8,000.00.

YES's contribution of \$2,360.00.

One-time temp. contract support worker for: 6 months, 12 hours a week at \$9,360.00, plus: youth transportation, ID fees, & snacks at \$1,000.00 for a total budget amount of \$10,360.00.

The evaluation framework is on page 9 & 10 of the application, which indicates a target of 75 youth interventions offered, 40 youth they plan to connect to needed services, and, the number of 30 potential youth would have improved skills such as emotional regulation & decision-making, and 40 youth would be transitioned to long-term support.

YES's outline of "success" is also provided on Page 10 of their application. Their tracking would be done by spread sheets.

Therefore, the Priorities Sub-committee recommends the following proposed motion to VFC&YJC:

**"That the Priorities Sub-committee recommends to Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee, that the grant application request of \$8,000.00 (the full amount) from the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society (YES) be approved for YES's temporary pilot project as outlined in their grant application of June 11, 2025 for the Alliance Club Youth Pathways Project Support Worker with a proposed completion date of January 15, 2026."**

**Sub-committee Rationale:**

The grant application from YES proposes "by example" to address known identified gaps in services urgently needed for marginalized youth in the Greater Victoria area (CRD) and to accelerate reducing existing wait lists and increasing connections and assistance in a number of services for youth with a skilled temporary contracted support worker. YES has also contributed their own funding towards the proposed pilot project. YES is situated well to offer such a program as they have a facility with appropriate staff and, additionally YES already provides wrap around services seamlessly for youth at their facility on Yates St., all possibly elevating the success of the proposed 6 month program for youth.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcie McLean  
VFC&YJC Priorities Sub-committee, Chair  
Communications Sub-committee,  
Councillor, District of Highlands

Project Number

## GRANTS AND PRIORITIES FORM AND APPLICATION

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

PART A - CONTACT INFORMATION			
Date of Application: June 11, 2025		Legal Name of Applicant / Organization: The Victoria Youth Empowerment Society	
Address: 533 Yates St, Victoria BC, V8W 1K7		Telephone Number 250-383-3514	Website www.vyes.ca
Name of Contact Person Julie-Ann Hunter, Executive Director		Telephone Number of Contact Person 250-383-3514, ext 114	
Email Address of Contact Person: <a href="mailto:executivedirector@vyes.ca">executivedirector@vyes.ca</a>			
Alternate Contact Person: Kisae Petersen, Operations Director		Telephone Number of Alternate: 250-383-3514, ext 102	
Email Address of Alternate Contact Person: <a href="mailto:operationsdirector@vyes.ca">operationsdirector@vyes.ca</a>			
PART B – ORGANIZATION DETAILS (If applicable)			
Is the Organization a Registered Society in BC? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>		Registered Number under the BC <i>Society Act</i> S-29717	
Is the Organization a Registered Charity? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		Is the Organization a Business? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Legal or Tradename of Organization or "NA" if individual YES		Date the Organization was Created (yyyy/mm/dd) October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 1992	
<b>Mandate and main activities of the organization or applicable history of related projects:</b> <p>For over 30 years, the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society (YES) has offered services for vulnerable youth and families/caregivers throughout the CRD. Each year, the Agency supports over 1000 youth and families to meet their needs.</p> <p>Our mandate is twofold: First, to assist youth to remove themselves from the high-risk environment of the street and make the transition to healthier and more constructive life situations and second, to help youth and families make positive choices, which will prevent involvement in at risk behaviour or connection with the street scene.</p> <p>Our vision is to provide a continuum of care that empowers positive choices in the lives of multiple-barrier youth by providing accessible, innovative, and proactive programs. YES, provides prevention, intervention, treatment &amp; education services to youth and their families in an accessible manner that meets clients where they are at.</p>			

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

Current Programs Include:

- The *Alliance Club* a drop-in center for youth 13-19 years old that provides meals shower/laundry facilities, hygiene products.
- The *Kiwanis Emergency Youth Shelter* is a 10-bed facility where crisis response workers are able to respond to a wide range of matters, including parent/teen conflict, issues of abuse & youth homelessness.
- *Specialized Youth Detox* is a 5 bed non-medical withdrawal management program for all youth who want support with detoxification from alcohol & drugs. The program offers 10-day residential service for youth to detox & stabilize both physically & emotionally.
- The *Life Skills* program provides individual & group work, to advance youth in areas such as: self-esteem, healthy relationships, stress management, healthy relationships, family dynamics, anger management etc.
- The *Supported Independent Living* program provides the support necessary for successful transition of youth to independence and housing placements.
- The *Youth & Family Support* program provides short & longer-term family counselling & outreach services to youth and parents.
- The *Youth Services Outreach Team* provides urgent contact with youth in crisis to provide support with service options, advocacy, and facilitate prevention/diversion, early identification & intervention to reduce risks.
- The *Youth Wellness Program*, a workshop based program focused on improving youths' mental health, particularly in the areas of isolation, loneliness and anxiety.
- The *Summer Opportunities Program* is a recreation, social and educational activities program designed to meet the needs of marginalized youth to prevent destabilization over the summer months.
- The *Youth Food Pantry* provides access for youth ages 13-19 to access food resources, clothing, basic household items and school supplies. It also provides workshops and skill building on cooking and food planning.

More information is available at our website – [www.vyes.ca](http://www.vyes.ca).



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

These are the qualifications that would be required for the Alliance Club Youth Pathways Project Support Worker.

#### Youth Engagement and Service Planning:

- Works with youth to facilitate initial and ongoing assessments of individual needs of youth accessing the program.
- Facilitates referrals to appropriate community services, including identified legal, medical, mental health, trauma, substance use and family services.
- Provides direct support for youth accessing the program, either in the drop-in centre, office or in community.
- Provides behavioural management skills to best support youth and create a safe and stable environment.
- Supports youth to participate in the development and implementation of individualized short-term goals as appropriate.
- Provides crisis intervention, risk reduction and support for youth when required, particularly around issues such as suicidal ideation, mental health and substance use.
- Works cooperatively with other service providers including MCFD, non-profits, health care, police officers and probation officers.
- Demonstrates a level of cultural sensitivity and understanding of the client population.
- Forms mutually respectful partnerships with persons served to address any issues and problems they face.
- Accepts the clients' rights to self-determination and individuality and must not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, language, religion, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, age, abilities, socio-economic status, political affiliations, or national ancestry.
- Demonstrates a youth centred, strength based approach.
- Maintains a positive conviction about the capacity of people to grow and change.
- Sets appropriate boundaries, intervenes appropriately and maintains a helping role to meet the needs of the persons served.

#### Experience and Special Requirements

The Alliance Club Youth Pathways Project Support Worker will preferably have 1-2 years experience working with youth and families, in particular:

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



- **Crisis Intervention is Immediate:** The environment allows for real-time assessment and intervention for youth presenting with acute needs.
- **Wraparound Support is Seamless:** The youth worker can connect clients to the broader range of supports offered by VYES, such as mental health services, family counseling, and housing assistance, ensuring a continuum of care.

Starting the Alliance Club Youth Pathways Project in the summer is particularly advantageous, as this season presents a critical window for prevention. Research indicates that summer is a high-risk period for youth, with increased unsupervised time, reduced access to structured activities, and heightened opportunities for increased risk.

By launching during the summer, the project can immediately engage youth at a time when they are most accessible and vulnerable, providing timely support to address emerging needs before they escalate into crises. Additionally, evidence shows that structured summer interventions, such as mentoring, significantly reduce risk factors associated with justice system involvement. The Alliance Club Youth Pathways Project offers a unique, low-barrier approach to stabilizing youth during this critical period, helping to bridge gaps in service and build resilience, ultimately reducing justice system involvement.

#### Catchment area served – Target population

The catchment area served is the CRD. The Youth Pathways Project will be open to youth (12-19) of all backgrounds. The target population of the Youth Pathways Project is marginalized youth who may be experiencing challenges such as experiencing a wide range of vulnerabilities including poverty, poor physical health, substance use, isolation, social anxiety, and depression (among other mental health challenges) and who are currently on a waitlist for YES support programs.

The Alliance Club Youth Pathways Project is designed to fill these gaps by integrating more immediate short-term assessment and support that is connected to the larger YES wrap-around model. The goal of this project will be to ensure that this target population is provided with services so that they do not experience an increase in vulnerabilities while being on a waitlist.

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

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

The objectives of the Alliance Club Youth Pathways Project include:

- Act as an access point for youth needing assistance with issues such as family conflict, homelessness, unemployment, mental health, and substance use.
- Serve as a bridge for youth on waitlists at YES, ensuring they remain stable while waiting for longer-term support.
- Raise awareness for youth and families about available community connections and resources.
- Provide education on activities that increase risk and healthy coping mechanisms to mitigate these risks.
- Improve outcomes for marginalized youth and families, reducing their likelihood of involvement with the justice system.

The **Alliance Club Youth Pathways Project** directly supports the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee's focus on prevention and diversion by addressing the root causes of at-risk behavior before they escalate. By ensuring immediate access to services, the project mitigates vulnerabilities that often lead to justice system involvement.

Through its integration with the Alliance Club drop-in, the project creates a low-barrier access point where youth can receive short-term, targeted support in a non-stigmatizing environment. This proactive, wrap-around approach reduces the likelihood of increased risk to youth, ensuring positive long-term outcomes for youth and families.

While this is a pilot project, youth and families have consistently highlighted a critical gap in service delivery: the need for early intervention. They often express frustration that services become accessible only at a crisis point, leading to unnecessary stress, instability, and challenges that could have been mitigated with earlier support.

This delay frequently results in youth already having contact with the justice system by the time they receive assistance. By addressing issues before they escalate, the **Alliance Club Youth Pathways Project** aims to break this cycle, ensuring that youth receive targeted support at the earliest possible stage.

Through proactive assessments, immediate interventions, and short-term bridging services, this project not only reduces the risk of justice system involvement but also empowers youth and families to build resilience, stabilize their circumstances, and achieve better long-term outcomes.

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

The Alliance Club Youth Pathways Project Support Worker will do the following:

**Activity 1: Conduct individual assessments to determine youth's immediate needs.**

- Engage with youth to perform assessments of their immediate needs.
- Document each assessment thoroughly, ensuring all relevant information is captured for follow-up support.
- Prioritize urgent needs and identify appropriate interventions or services.

**Outcome:** Youth's immediate needs are identified and prioritized for targeted interventions.

**Indicators:**

- Number of individual assessments completed.
- Number of youth provided services within one week of assessment.

**Activity 2: Connect youth with services that have capacity for immediate support both within the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society as well as community resources.**

- Research and maintain an up-to-date directory of services within the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society and the broader community.
- Collaborate with service providers to confirm availability and coordinate smooth handoffs.
- Conduct follow-ups with youth and families within one month of referral to assess service satisfaction and outcomes.

**Outcome:** Youth access timely and appropriate services to meet their needs.

**Indicators:**

- Number of youth connected to services within one month of referral.
- Percentage of youth reporting satisfaction with the support received.

**Activity 3: Offer guidance and tools for building coping skills, emotional regulation, and positive decision-making.**

- Offer one-on-one support focused on teaching healthy coping mechanisms, emotional regulation, and positive decision-making strategies.
- Regularly evaluate youth progress and adjust support plans as needed.

**Outcome:** Youth develop healthier coping mechanisms and improve their ability to navigate challenges.

**Indicators:**

- Number of youth who can identify healthy coping mechanisms.
- Number of youth who report improved emotional regulation skills.

**Activity 4: Provide bridging services to youth coming off waitlists to ensure a smooth transition to longer-term supports.**

- Act as a liaison for youth waiting to access longer-term services, providing interim support and advocacy.
- Monitor youth progress and well-being during the bridging period, ensuring they remain stable and engaged.

- Coordinate with long-term service providers to ensure a smooth transition for youth coming off waitlists.
- Provide continuity of care by sharing relevant information and supporting the youth through the transition process.

**Outcome:** Youth experience continuity of care and stability during transitions to long-term services.

**Indicators**

- Number of youth who transition from waitlists into longer-term services within two months.
- Number of youth reporting reduced stress and improved stability during the bridging period.

**Activity 5: Collaborate with community organizations, legal aid services, and youth justice professionals to create pathways for diversion and wrap-around support.**

- Develop and strengthen relationships with local organizations, legal aid services, and youth justice professionals.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and create formal pathways for diversion programs.
- Advocate for youth-centered, wrap-around approaches to support, including education, employment, and housing stability.

**Outcome:** Youth avoid justice system involvement and stabilize through coordinated community-based supports.

**Indicators:**

- Number of youth who require short-term support and stabilize without further interventions
- Number of community connections established to support diversion pathways.

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

This program will take place in the Alliance Club, beginning in July 2025 and will be operating between July 2025 and January 2026. Data on service delivery and demographics will be compiled and reviewed monthly. During the pilot project phase, we will also explore what further funding opportunities there may be for this type of service delivery. Near the end of the pilot project, we will assess the outcomes and complete a final report.

**PART D – BUDGET DETAILS**

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

**BUDGET NOTES:**

- All of the funds received through a VFJCYC Grant will be used to provide the contracted hours for a short-term youth support worker to offer direct service delivery to youth.
- IN KIND: YES will provide in-kind contributions also by utilizing existing space, office supplies, and utilities included in our main building. By doing this, the costs remain low for this pilot program.

	Item	Detail	Cost	Total Funds
<b>Revenues</b>	YFJCYC Grant	Pending		\$8,000
	Victoria Youth Empowerment Society	Confirmed		\$2,360
<b>Expenses</b>	Contracted worker engaged to undertake project activities	This one contracted individual would be responsible for delivering the Alliance Club Youth Pathways Program for 12 hours a week for six months (July-January).		<b>\$9,360</b>
	Program Supplies and Youth Transportation	Youth transportation to appointments, snacks, ID fees,		<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$10,360</b>

**Other funding avenues/partners being explored:**

There are currently no additional funding revenues currently being explored, however YES has committed \$1,300 from its fundraising efforts to offset some of the costs of the program.

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

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

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

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

**Evaluation Framework for the Alliance Club Youth Pathways Project:**

Evaluation Framework	Success Marker	How will this be tracked
Number of youth whose immediate needs are assessed and addressed through targeted interventions.	75 youth will have targeted interventions offered.	The number of completed assessments and follow ups will be tracked using an excel spreadsheet. Feedback forms will be used to measure satisfaction and effectiveness of services provided.

	Number of youth connected to community or internal services within two months of referrals.	40 youth will be connected to services.	Number of connections will be tracked on an excel spreadsheet and reported monthly.	
	Number of youth who report an improvement in emotional regulation and decision making skills.	30 youth will report an improvement in emotional regulation and decision making skills.	Feedback surveys will be administered to measure changes in emotional regulation.	
	Number of youth who transition from waitlist into long-term supports.	40 youth will transition to long-term support.	The number of youth who transition from waitlists into long term support services will be tracked using an excel spreadsheet.	
<p><i>*Youth may achieve more than one outcome during the nine weeks of the program</i></p>				

We will know that the program is successful by the number of participants as well as the number of outcomes that are achieved as outlined above. The VFC & YJC will know it is successful through the end of project report that will outline how many youth participated in the program, what community referrals were made and how many youth achieved each of the outcome categories. These outcome categories directly correspond to protective factors that would likely decrease a youth's involvement with justice services.

Are you willing to present to the Committee upon completion?

YES ☒ NO ☐

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**Applicants must:**

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

- travel expenditures that are necessary to the successful completion of the Project;
- costs associated with contractors engaged to undertake the Project activities, such as website developers or researchers;
- venue bookings;
- materials and supplies expenditures;
- equipment rentals;
- vehicle rental, lease, and operation expenditures;
- communication and printing, production, advertising, and distribution expenditures;
- costs associated with management and professional services required to support a Project; and



- other direct costs necessary for the completion of the Project that may be agreed to in writing by VFC&YJC from time to time.

#### Ineligible Expenses

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

#### General

- Applicants may apply only once per calendar year.
- Approvals may be whole or in part. There is no obligation on VFC&YJC to make any awards.
- Upon completion of the project, the applicant must provide a brief written summary report on the project's outcomes and may be required to present this in person at a meeting of the VFC&YJC.
- The VFC&YJC title, name or logo will not be used without the prior written consent of the Committee.
- Funds are granted on these conditions. They must be used for the Project or returned in full within thirty (30) days of the oral or written demand.
- Grants may not be used to generate revenue for the Applicant or for purposes outside the project's scope.
- The maximum liability of CRD and VFC&YJC is limited to the provision of grant funds. The CRD and VFC&YJC will accept no liability whatsoever to any applicant, organization, or third party for any costs, claims, damages or losses however incurred relating to, occurring, or arising from the provision of grant funds or the Project. The applicant shall not be or be deemed to be, an agent of the CRD or the VFC&YJC and shall not present itself as such.

#### Application Requirements

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

#### Assessment

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

#### Budget

	Item	Detail	Cost	Total Funds
Revenues				
Expenses				
TOTAL				

### Conditions of Funding

- a grant must be used for the activity for which it was intended;
- activities must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding;
- submission of a final report within two months of activity completion;
- Applicant must comply with all laws applicable to the undertaking of the Project;
- Applicant must provide and maintain at their expense any insurance that they are required to provide by law or that is reasonably necessary to insure against any risks they may assume as a result of undertaking the project, including coverage for any employees as required by the *Workers Compensation Act*; and
- if the activity is not completed or a final report is not submitted, the VFC&YJC may request the return of the grant and refuse future applications.

### Submitting an Application

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

### Application Checklist

What to submit:

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

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

If you have questions about the application or eligibility of your project, contact [VFCYJCAAdmin@crd.bc.ca](mailto:VFCYJCAAdmin@crd.bc.ca)



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

Name of applicant/representative
Name (Print) Julie-Ann Hunter
Signature
Position Title Executive Director
Date (YYYY/MM/DD) 2025/6/11

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

- Chair of the Granting Committee – [MarcieMcLean@shaw.ca](mailto:MarcieMcLean@shaw.ca)
- Chair of VFC & YJC - [MLittle@crd.bc.ca](mailto:MLittle@crd.bc.ca)  
cc: VFCYJC Secretary – [VFCYJCadmin@crd.bc.ca](mailto:VFCYJCadmin@crd.bc.ca)



### **Notes from CRAT Meeting, June 17, 2025 via Google Meet 12 Noon**

1. Call to Order at 12:02. In attendance, Marilyn, Cathy, and Bill
2. Introductions and Updates: Folks introduced themselves and gave a brief update of what is going on. Cathy has revised her book, **"Child Sex Trafficking in Canada and How to Stop It- second edition"**. The book launch is June 18 and it will be broadcast online. You can access the book launch through Eventbrite:  
<https://cathypetersbooklaunch.eventbrite.ca> When you have registered a link will be sent to you.
3. Financial Report: We have paid Sage for the artwork which leaves us a balance of \$4858.29. Bill has not followed up with our annual grant from the CRD. We still have to pay for the art costs for the covers.
4. Chair's position: Bill reminded the meeting that he plans to step down at the AGM in January, so a new chair will be needed.
5. Mobile Youth Support Team (MYST) Update: Dr. Rebecca Nelems from Royal Roads University will be making a presentation about her research into the need for MYST at the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting on June 26.
6. Graphic Novel Update: We now have 14 pages of comic and a front cover. We still need to work on the back cover and list of resources, as well as finding sponsors. If anyone wants a copy of the graphic novel and cover, please ask Bill to send you one. Reminder that the artwork is copyright.
7. VFCYJC now only meeting 4 times per year. This will reduce the number of our meetings as well, from 5 per year to 4.
8. Adjournment 12:46. Next meeting, October 14, 12 noon, Electronic or in person.

Submitted by Bill McElroy, Chair, CRAT

**To:** Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee

**From:** Ryan Labelle / Pixel Makers Creative

**Date:** April 24th, 2025

**Subject:** Proposal for Enhancing Digital Engagement and Website Infrastructure

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to propose a series of improvements to the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee's digital tools and website infrastructure. These enhancements are designed to strengthen engagement, improve usability, and support the Committee's mission through modern, efficient technology.

---

## Proposal Summary

### 1. Boost Member Engagement

- Introduce subscription options for blog and resource updates via email or text messages.
- Add members-only commenting and discussion areas to facilitate meaningful dialogue and collaboration.

*Benefit:* Increases active participation, strengthens connections among members, and ensures timely communication on key topics.

### 2. Enhance Library Tools and Resource Organization

- Upgrade the site's search functionality with keyword tagging and related content links.
- Reorganize resource content for improved clarity and accessibility.

*Benefit:* Enables users to find relevant information faster and more intuitively, supporting both internal use and public access.

### 3. Improve Advocacy Through Online Tools

- Allow users to compose and send advocacy letters or requests directly from the website.

*Benefit:* Simplifies the advocacy process and empowers the community to take meaningful action on issues that matter.

### 4. Encourage Application Submissions

- Replace downloadable PDF forms with user-friendly online applications.

*Benefit:* Streamlines the submission process, reduces administrative workload, and encourages more timely, complete applications.

## **5. Improve Overall Usability and Content Organization**

- Conduct a usability review and restructure the site's content to prioritize user-friendly navigation and accessibility.

*Benefit:* Enhances the overall user experience, ensuring the site serves a wide audience including youth, families, and justice stakeholders.

## **6. Upgrade Website Infrastructure**

- Implement a modern website theme and a live page builder for future flexibility.

*Benefit:* Provides a visually appealing, mobile-responsive platform that staff can easily update without relying on technical support.

---

## **Conclusion**

These proposed enhancements offer practical, impactful solutions to modernize the Committee's digital presence, encourage greater engagement, and amplify the effectiveness of its advocacy work. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal in more detail and look forward to supporting the Committee in bringing these improvements to life.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Labelle  
Pixel Makers Creative Inc.

**250-516-2921**

# JARS

*a story about surviving trafficking*



*art & story  
by  
sage*

CAPITAL REGION  
ACTION TEAM





June 6, 2025

**Attention: The Honourable Niki Sharma, Attorney General and Deputy Premier**

Dear Attorney General Sharma,

On April 24, 2025, the members of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (VFCYJC) unanimously passed the following resolution:

***THAT Chair Little write BC Attorney General Niki Sharma in support of recommendations raised with the Committee by the [Be Amazing](#) campaign's Cathy Peters, namely:***

***\* [Funding/training for law enforcement to better enforce the federal \[Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act\]\(#\).](#)***

***\* [A BC provincial public awareness campaign.](#)***

***\* [A human trafficking task force in BC like those in \[Alberta\]\(#\), \[Saskatchewan\]\(#\), \[Manitoba\]\(#\) and \[Ontario\]\(#\).](#)***

We applaud and appreciate the substantial work undertaken in recent decades by the Province through the [Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons](#) (OCTIP) to address the crisis of human sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, and child sexual trafficking. In collaboration with provincial ministries, federal departments, municipal governments, law enforcement agencies and community organizations, OCTIP aims to prevent human trafficking and coordinate services for trafficked persons in BC.

We're also aware of the vital efforts of the tireless Ms. Peters as well as such organizations as the [Children of the Street Society](#) (which publishes a [toolkit for service providers](#)) and Covenant House Vancouver (responsible for the [Anti-Human Trafficking Toolkit](#)).

The formation last year of the [Human Trafficking Prevention Network of British Columbia](#) initiated by former Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin is also strong, encouraging evidence that there is widespread commitment to public awareness, support for organizations combating human trafficking and, critically, assistance to survivors in their recovery and transition.

This said, we have been moved to write you following Ms. Peters' passionate and persuasive committee presentation. "Organized crime and international syndicates operate freely in British Columbia," she noted. "Drug and sex trafficking are lucrative and increasing with no deterrent. Currently, gang recruitment is occurring around the province. I am in touch with all 60 School Districts to warn them that youth are being aggressively targeted (online and in person)."



Ms. Peters' top three recommendations for immediate action by the Province of BC are included in our resolution that we are respectfully forwarding today for your consideration and support.

We note that an update on [BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking](#) (2013) was seemingly last undertaken after its [third year \(2016\)](#). Perhaps this can be a starting point for any new task force you might consider as it revisits this action plan's urgently needed recommendations in the context of the strong initiatives undertaken, guided and funded by successive NDP governments since 2017.

In closing, and related to this letter, please note that in July, 2024 the VFCYJC resolved to ask enforcement authorities to **seek amendments to sections 152 and 153 of the Criminal Code** to more effectively stop online sexual exploitation and the grooming of youth and young adults. As we have learned from Ms. Peters, Greater Victoria police representatives and members of the Mobile Youth Services Team, this a critical issue impacting children and young people. It must be addressed with all due urgency.

Thank you for your dedication and good work on so many vital fronts that impact the lives of all British Columbians. We look forward to your reply in the near future.

Sincerely,

Marie-Terese Little,  
Chair, Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee  
Mayor, District of Metchosin  
Vice-Chair, Capital Regional District Board of Directors

cc The Hon. David Eby, Premier of British Columbia  
Cathy Peters, Be Amazing Campaign  
Cliff McNeil-Smith, Chair, Capital Regional District Board of Directors  
Kimberley Guirey, VFCYJC Vice-Chair and Councillor, City of Langford  
Jennifer Charlesworth, British Columbia's Representative for Children and Youth  
Hon. Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care  
Hon. Gary Begg, Minister of Public Safety & Solicitor General  
Hon. Jodie Wickens, Minister of Children and Family Development

<http://www.victoriafamilycourt.ca>.

From: [ca.peters@telus.net](mailto:ca.peters@telus.net) <[cathy@telus.net](mailto:cathy@telus.net)>

Date: Wed, Jun 11, 2025 at 8:21 PM

Subject: Re: Please find attached a letter from Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice

To: Secretary Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee <[vfamcourt@gmail.com](mailto:vfamcourt@gmail.com)>

Thank you very much for this excellent letter.

I am very appreciative of your support and stance.

THANK YOU for writing to the Premier, Attorney General, Public Safety Minister, and other Ministers.

This is a powerful statement and request.

My hope is that the government will acknowledge the issue and the problem.

It is possible to quickly turn back the dial on this crime when proactive and good policies are in place.

Thank you again for your important work and your VOICE.

Sincerely,

Cathy Peters

BC anti human trafficking educator, speaker, advocate

[beamazingcampaign.org](http://beamazingcampaign.org)

1101-2785 Library Lane, North Vancouver, BC V7J 0C3

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal recipient for my anti human trafficking advocacy work

Author: **Child Sex Trafficking in Canada and How to Stop It- second edition**

On Wed, Jun 11, 2025 at 2:16 PM Secretary Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee <[vfamcourt@gmail.com](mailto:vfamcourt@gmail.com)> wrote:

June 11, 2025

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached a letter from the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee.

Sincerely,

Marie-Térèse Little, PhD

Mayor, District of Metchosis, Chair,

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice (VFCYJ) Committee

Mobile: [1.250.508.8756](tel:1.250.508.8756)

Email: [mtlittle@metchosis.ca](mailto:mtlittle@metchosis.ca)

Marnie Essery, Secretary, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Phone: 250-474-5939

Email: [vfamcourt@gmail.com](mailto:vfamcourt@gmail.com)

**Please help us spread the word about the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, our own and others' events, community resource information, news and more**

☐• Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/vfamcourt>

☐• Follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/vfamcourt>

[Victoria Family Court – The mandate of the committee is to be aware of the circumstances of youth and families who may](#)

For the June 26, 2025 VFC&YJC Meeting Agenda under item number 11: Notice of Motion(s)

"That Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (VFC&YJC) hold an in-person Panel Discussion on one of the following 2 (two) 2025 dates:

A Special meeting on Thursday, September 18th, 2025 for only the Panel Discussion and no other VFC&YJC other unnecessary business, or, on Thursday October 23, 2025 a scheduled meeting.

The purpose of the proposed Panel Discussion would be to have invited representatives from the current 3 Integrated Regional Units/Teams being the:

Integrated Regional Mobile Crisis Response Team (IRMCRT)(Island Health), the Integrated Regional Domestic Violence Unit (RIDVU), and, the Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) as it is these 3 specific Units/Teams that the District of Central Saanich Police Board and, the Westshore RCMP Commander are planning to withdraw funding of the tax payer's financial portions for the police officers to these 3 Integrated Regional Units/Teams.

The panel discussions intent would focus on their Units/Teams, purpose, work and need throughout Greater Victoria plus, the future of these Units/Teams and/or impacts, and to increase awareness and educate VFC&YJC members.

VFC&YJC would also invite Police Chief Ian Lawson from the District of Central Saanich Police Board or, an alternate from the Central Saanich Police Board and, Westshore RCMP Superintendent Todd Preston or, an alternate, to also attend in-person to each speak to their rationale for withdrawing from these 3 above noted Unit/Teams including providing accurate Unit/Team data such as call outs for 2024 -2025 and financial data as well such as accurate "municipal financial contributions" for the police officer staff for these 3 Integrated Regional Teams/Units.

VFC&YJC would also invite Chief Constable Fiona Wilson Victoria/Esquimalt Police Department or, an alternate, to participate in-person for perspectives on each of these 3 Integrated Regional Unit/Teams for the Greater Victoria Areas."

Please note: that details on this Notice of Motion would be offered by me (and possibly others) and discussed at the upcoming VFC&YJC meeting of June 26, 2025 (due to time constraints and, as the meeting scheduled in October would be our last meeting in 2025, (due to the new meeting schedule), I would be seeking same day consideration of the Notice of Motion at June's meeting.

Please note: that at the April 2025 VFC&YJC scheduled meeting I did verbally mentioned this idea and offered to organize the proposed Panel.