



VICTORIA FAMILY COURT & YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE
Notice of Meeting on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 11:30 am
Boardroom, 6th Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

Meeting to be conducted electronically and in-person.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Meeting of June 26, 2025
([Attachment 1, pg 3](#))

Recommendation: That the minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting held June 26, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

3.2. Notes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Steering Committee meeting of October 9, 2025 ([Attachment 2, pg 8](#))

Recommendation: That the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee notes of October 9, 2025 be received for information.

4. Chairperson's Remarks

5. Presentations/Delegations (10 minutes maximum per item)

5.1. Resource Agencies (if in attendance)

5.2. Panel Presentation - A facilitated discussion focused on three Greater Victoria Integrated Police Units as per the VFCYJC motion of June 26, 2025. Participants:

- **Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team (IMCRT)** – Island Health's Lorraine Bates (Manager, Mental Health and Substance Use) and Debra Johnsen (Coordinator, Crisis Response & Outreach Services)
- **Mobile Youth Services Team:** Mia Golden and Shauna Bainbridge
- **Regional Domestic Violence Unit:** Saanich Police Deputy Chief Constable Paul Douglas, Joint Management Team representative for MYST and the RDVU
- **Central Saanich Chief Constable,** Ian Lawson
- **West Shore RCMP** Interim Officer-In Charge, Stephen Rose

6. Committee Business

6.1. Term limits as per Capital Regional District Bylaw #4553 ([Attachment 3, pg. 9](#))

6.2. Greater Victoria School District #61 update ([Attachment 4, pg. 15](#))

7. Sub-Committee Business

7.1. Priorities and Grants (M. McLean)

- 7.1.1. Committee Report: Grant Application from Human Nature Counselling Society
([Attachment 5, pg. 16](#))

Recommendation: *“That the Human Nature Counselling Society’s grant request for \$5,500.00 for their spring 2026 New Roots Youth Anxiety Program be approved by Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee”.*

Alternatively, *to the above proposed motion the VFC&YJC may consider to:*

Reduce the amount of the grant requested by HNCS. Or, deny the grant request from HNCS.

- 7.1.2. Grant application: Human-Nature Counselling Society ([Attachment 6, pg. 19](#))

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

- 7.2.1. Report on CRAT meeting of October 8, 2025 ([Attachment 7, pg. 29](#))

- 7.2.2. Future of CRAT given B. McElroy’s retirement

7.3. Family and Youth Matters (R. Stanton)

7.4. Court Watch (M. Little)

7.5. Communications (J. Bateman)

- 7.5.1. Draft letter to AG Sharma re: Jamie Maclaren’s Roads to Revival report recommendations as presented to the VFCYJC ([Attachment 8, pg. 30](#))
- 7.5.2. Confirmed AGM speaker for Jan. 22, 2026 – British Columbia’s Representative for Children and Youth Jennifer Charlesworth
- 7.5.3. Calls For Action for Children, Youth, Students and their Families - update
- 7.5.4. Communications Sub-Committee Meeting Notes, July 8, 2025 ([Attachment 9, pg. 31](#))
- 7.5.5. Annual Report 2025

8. Treasurer’s Report

- 8.1. Draft statement of Finances as of Sept. 30, 2025 ([Attachment 10, pg. 38](#))

9. New Business

10. Correspondence

11. Notice(s) of Motion

- 11.1. **Notice of Motion – Committee Meeting Schedule (B. McElroy)** ([Attachment 11, pg. 41](#))
“That the number of meetings of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee be increased from 4 meetings to 6 meetings per year”

12. Adjournment

Roundtable to be held after adjournment, time permitting.

January 22, 2026, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Annual General Meeting and regular meeting to follow. The AGM will start promptly at 11:30 a.m. and regular meeting will end by 1:30 p.m.



**Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting held Thursday
June 26, 2025, CRD Boardroom, 6th floor, 625 Fisgard Street**

PRESENT:

Committee Members: M. Little (Chair), K. Guiry (Vice Chair), S. Kim, C. Lervold, K. Marshall, (EP), Bill McElroy, (EP), M. McLean, T. O'Keefe, (EP), M. Olsen, (EP), E. Paterson, S. Riddell (EP), T. Vanwell,

Staff: S. Orr, Senior Committee Clerk, Legislative Services; M. Essery, Recording Secretary, (EP)

Regrets: K. Armour, J. Bateman, D. Brown, C. Chaytors, A. Holeton, S. Rapoport, M. Westhaver

Guests/Resource Members: M. Golden, MYST; S. Bainbridge, Saanich Police Officer; R. Nelems and L. Lee; D. Segal, Executive Director, Human Nature Counselling Society; Alicia and Kris, John Howard Society

EP - Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Little provided Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

That the agenda for June 26, 2025 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

**3.1. Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Meeting of
April 24, 2025**

MOVED by T. Vanwell, **SECONDED** by S. Kim,

That the minutes of April 24, 2025 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

3.2. Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of April 10, 2025

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

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

CARRIED

4. Chairpersons Remarks

The Chair had no remarks.

5. Presentations/Delegations

5.1. Resource Agencies

M. Golden introduced Shauna Bainbridge, Saanich Police Officer, newly appointed to the MYST organization.

5.2. Dr. Rebecca Nelems, author of the Sept. 2024 MYST Business Case Report. See VFCYJC Chair's letter dated Dec. 23, 2024 and Collaboration for Change: Addressing Youth Gang Exploitation in Greater Victoria.

Dr Rebecca Nelems presented with colleague, Laura Lee.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- roles and responsibilities of the Police Board
- success of MYST and their model of their unique support to youth
- early intervention is essential to prevent higher costs in adulthood.
- long-term impacts of not supporting youth include increased criminal justice, healthcare, and mental health expenses.
- the importance of prevention
- long term funding challenges related to MYST programming

Representatives from the John Howard Society were in attendance and provided an update on their work in the community.

5.3. Ryan Labelle, Pixel Makers Creative re: proposal for enhancing digital engagement and website infrastructure

Ryan was unable to attend today. This will be tabled until a future meeting.

5.4. David Segal, Executive Director, Human-Nature Counselling Society re: outcomes report on 2024 VFCYJC grant.

D. Segal highlighted the outcomes of 2024 grant provided by VFCYJC.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- observations related to the state of parks in the region
- strategies to deal with climate anxiety in youth
- barriers to access parks and natural areas and how elected officials can build opportunities to enhance the programming

6. Sub-Committee Business

6.1. Priorities and Grants (M. McLean)

6.1.1. Victoria Youth Empowerment Society application

MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by T. Vanwell

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.

CARRIED

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

6.2.1. B. McElroy presented item 6.2.1. for information.

6.2.2. B. McElroy presented item 6.2.2. for information.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- graphic novel images
- adding the committee logo to the novel

The Chair stated that the position for the Chair of the CRAT committee will expire at the end of 2025. Bill shared that CRAT is looking for a new Chair. This will be his last year as Chair.

6.3. Family and Youth Matters

There was no update.

6.4. Court Watch

Chair Little stated that the sub-committee shall remain intact for future reporting of Court Matters when they arise. The committee may revisit this again in the future. The committee is interested in learning about trends that impact youth and families.

6.5. Communications

6.5.1. Chair Little provided an update stating that the letter to Attorney General Sharma was sent.

6.5.2. M. McLean provided an update re Calls to Action for Children, Youth, Students and their Families on matters pertaining to safety, education, health, poverty and prevention. This draft letter will be reviewed at the Communications Subcommittee meeting in early July.

6.5.3. Access Pro Bono's Jamie Maclaren presentation at the April 24 VFCYJC meeting is on VFCYJC's website for your information.

6.5.4. Open House 2025 - Chair Little spoke to Item 6.5.4. and stated that the Open House was a great success with 26 people in attendance, 11 from the committee, 15 from local resource agencies and law enforcement. She stated this is an importance interchange of information between the agencies and looks forward to future open houses.

7. Committee Business

7.1. Treasurer's Report (Esther Paterson)

E. Paterson presented Item 7.1. for information.

7.2. Discussion about VFCYJC website

This item was deferred to the October 23, 2025 meeting.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Correspondence

9.1. Email from Cathy Peters, dated June 11, 2025 re: VFCYJC Advocacy was received for information.

10. Notice(s) of Motion

10.1. Notice of Motion – In Person Panel Discussion (M. McLean)

**MOVED by M McLean, SECONDED by S. Kim,
That same day consideration be applied to the Notice of Motion.
CARRIED**

Discussion ensued regarding:

- location of the in-person panel discussion
- commitment to have one meeting per year in Central Saanich
- rationale for inclusion of law enforcement to the panel
- potential involvement in Community Safety Well Being Conference in January 2026 to promote MYST and impact of the committee
- communication sub-committee to organize the panel
- September 18th the CRD Board room is not available
- On October 23rd, Central Saanich has invited us to host our meeting there.

T. O'Keefe left the meeting at 1:02 pm.

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

CARRIED

Opposed: K. Guiry, M. Little

Chair Little left the meeting at 1:00 pm and Vice Chair Guiry assumed the role of Chair.

10.2. Notice of Motion - collection and analysis of standardized performance data across BC's justice system (M. Little) (with same day consideration)

MOVED by M McLean, SECONDED by S. Kim,
That same day consideration be applied to the Notice of Motion.
CARRIED

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

MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by S. Kim,
That the main motion be amended by adding the following wording:
"and, Recommendation #15: Create a Child Protection Clinic to help parents before child protection concerns have reached the level of Ministry of Children and Family Development intervention and to serve as a practice resource centre for lawyers representing parents in contested child protection matters."
CARRIED

The question was called on the main motion as amended:

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, and, Recommendation #15: Create a Child Protection Clinic to help parents before child protection concerns have reached the level of Ministry of Children and Family Development intervention and to serve as a practice resource centre for lawyers representing parents in contested child protection matters.
CARRIED

11. Adjournment

MOVED by E. Paterson SECONDED by S. Kim,
That the June 26, 2025 Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee meeting be adjourned at 1:30 p.m.
CARRIED

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee Notes
October 9, 2025, 11:30am

Attending: Chair Marie-Térèse Little, Vice Chair Kimberley Guiry, Committee Member Bill McElroy, Committee Member Ester Paterson, Committee Member Jeff Bateman, Alternate Committee Member Rose Stanton

- Discussion on background material to support panel discussion
- Overview of panel discussion, time for presenters and questions
- Given the time needed for the panel discussion, the remaining agenda items will be concise
- Priorities and Grants and Communications will be important for the Annual Report, so these items are prioritized for sub-committee business
- The CRAT report is also important to get in before the end of the year, and may include budget discussion for 2026
- Addition of comments on term limits according to CRD Bylaw to Chairperson's Remarks
- Addition of SD61 update by CM Paterson to New Business
- Short discussion on when to meet in Central Saanich
- Concluded with a brief discussion on how best to do a check-in with the Committee on the number of meetings per year. CM McElroy to consider a Notice of Motion at October Meeting

Next Steering Committee meeting is currently scheduled for January 8, 2026



Making a difference...together

BYLAW NO. 4453

VICTORIA FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMISSION BYLAW NO. 1, 2022

Consolidated for Public Convenience

(This bylaw is for reference purposes only)

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED FEBRUARY 9, 2022
(Consolidated with Amending Bylaw 4548)

For reference to original bylaws or further details, please contact the Capital Regional District,
Legislative Services Department, 625 Fisgard St., PO Box 1000, Victoria BC V8W 2S6
T: (250) 360-3127, F: (250) 360-3130, Email: legserv@crd.bc.ca, Web: www.crd.bc.ca

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
BYLAW NO. 4453**

**A BYLAW TO CONTINUE THE VICTORIA FAMILY COURT AND
YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE AS A DELEGATED COMMISSION**

WHEREAS:

- A. Under Bylaw No. 2560, *Family Court Committee Extended Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1997*, the Capital Regional District (“CRD”) continued a service to operate, participate in and fund a *Provincial Court Act* family court committee created for the capital region, as well as to provide funding to approved youth justice initiative involved third parties;
- B. Since the 1960s, the Victoria Family Court Committee, also known as the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, has operated as an advisory body, first as a committee of the City of Victoria then of the Capital Regional District, and continues to operate for the coordination and grant-making benefit for regional youth and family justice initiatives;
- C. The Board wishes to set out clearly the community mandate of the Committee in a commission bylaw and ensure it has legal status and delegated authority to continue its work;

NOW THEREFORE, the Capital Regional District Board in open meeting assembled hereby enacts as follows:

CREATION OF COMMISSION

1. A commission is hereby established, to be known as the “Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee” (hereinafter the “Committee”), and shall be a continuation of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee presently operated in the capital region.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

2. The Committee is hereby delegated all of the administrative powers of the Regional Board with respect to the service set out in Bylaw No. 2560, *Family Court Committee Extended Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1997* (the “Bylaw No. 2560”), that is, the funding, participation, and operation of the Committee and the granting of funding to youth and family issues; and the Board’s ability under s.263(1)(c) of the *Local Government Act* to provide assistance to youth and family groups as contemplated by Bylaw No. 2560, other than assistance to business.

COMPOSITION AND ELIGIBILITY

3. The Committee shall have the following number of voting members, up to a total of 23, each having one vote:
 - (a) Up to seven individuals as Capital Regional District appointed representatives under section 7;
 - (b) Thirteen municipal council representatives, who may each have an alternate, under section 8; and
 - (c) Three school district representatives, representing School Districts 61, 62, and 63, under section 9.
4. Available openings for voting membership vacancies will be advertised by November of each year of a vacancy in a term in a form acceptable to the appointing organization.

5. A majority of members must have experience in education, health, probation, or welfare.
6. Members must represent the interests of their community or organization to the best of their ability.

Capital Region Representatives

7. The Regional Board may appoint up to seven individuals as voting members of the Committee. Such appointments may be, but are not limited to, representatives of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (including the Electoral Area Director), community members, representatives of youth and family justice organizations, or First Nations' representatives. Municipal councillors and regional district Board members, other than the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director, are not eligible for appointment as Capital Region Representatives. (Bylaw 4548)

Municipal Representatives

8. Each municipal participant may appoint a municipal council representative as a voting member, and may appoint as an alternate voting member a member of the public or a municipal councilor to act in the absence of the municipal council representative, for a total of 13 municipal council representatives.

School District Representatives

9. Each school district in areas served by the Committee may appoint a representative as a voting member, for a total of three school district representatives.

Resource Members

10. The Committee may resolve to have any number of non-voting resource members, including individuals, service providers, organization representatives, public authorities, First Nations, or other groups working in the capital region in family court and youth justice initiatives.

TERM OF OFFICE

11. A member's term of office is from the date of appointment in one year to December 31 in the second year of appointment.
12. No voting member may serve more than six consecutive years on the Committee. A former member may be reappointed after one year of absence. Despite the term limit in this section, in unique circumstances, an appointing agency may reappoint its voting member for an additional term.

OFFICERS

13. By the end of February in each year, the Committee shall hold an annual meeting for the purpose of appointing officers (the "Annual Meeting"). The Committee shall select from among its voting members a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer, with voting by show of hands, or, if a secret ballot is requested by one-third of members present, by secret ballot.
14. The Committee may create additional officer roles it considers advisable and staff them with voting or non-voting members from time-to-time.
15. In the event of a vacancy, the Committee may select a voting member to fill an officer role until the next Annual Meeting.

DEATH, RESIGNATION, DISQUALIFICATION AND TERMINATION

16. A member's appointment ends on the end of term; resignation; death or incapacity; revocation of appointment; ceasing to be an employee, volunteer, elected official or officer of an appointing agency; or on the cessation of a municipal council voting member ceasing to be a municipal councilor.

MEMBER VACANCIES

17. In the event of a member vacancy before the end of term, the appointing organization may appoint an individual to complete the term. If not filled within a reasonable time, the Committee shall report such vacancy to the Capital Regional District's Corporate Officer.
18. If a member is absent for more than two consecutive meetings with notice, the Committee shall contact the member to determine interest in continuing on the Committee. If absent for three consecutive meetings, the member may be removed by resolution of the Committee and the Committee shall alert the appointing organization, requesting appointment.

COMMISSION OBJECTIVES AND DUTIES

19. The Committee has the following objectives:
- (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 and family organizations; and
 - (c) to encourage collaboration between and visibility of community services.
20. The Committee is hereby tasked with the following duties:
- (a) to meet at least four times per year to:
 - i. consider and examine community resources for family and children's matters;
 - ii. make recommendations to the court, the Attorney General, or others;
 - iii. solicit and consider applications for receipt of grant-funding; and
 - iv. connect family-and-justice-involved individuals, service providers, and government in a way that encourages collaboration and identifies service gaps;
 - (b) if requested by the court, to act a resource or assist as directed; and
 - (c) report annually to its member local governments and the Attorney General on its activities.
21. The Committee may, within its mandate:
- (a) take positions and advocate on policy initiatives, legislation, and services affecting families and youth justice in the region, in the name of the "Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee"; and
 - (b) undertake other activities consistent with the activities of a family court and youth justice committee, as permitted by law.
22. Subject to Capital Regional District bylaws, policies, and procedures, the Committee, in open meeting assembled or through supervised volunteers, may:
- (a) establish advisory groups to examine specific issues, who will report on their work;
 - (b) contract for support services, volunteer coordination, communications, feasibility studies, and other services and goods related to its objectives and duties;
 - (c) undertake necessary, incidental, or ancillary administrative tasks in order to effect its work.
23. If acting under referral or as otherwise directed under the *Provincial Court Act*, RSBC 1996, c 379, or *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, SC 2002, c 1, the Committee shall discharge its duties through one or more registered volunteers assembled for that purpose by resolution of the Committee, unless otherwise directed by the court.

24. All volunteers shall be supervised by the Committee or its appointed volunteer coordinator, if any; shall register with the CRD's Risk and Insurance Department; and must, if working with vulnerable persons or persons under 18 years of age, provide a recent criminal record check to CRD.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS AND QUORUM

25. A quorum shall be seven (7) voting members.
26. The Committee must follow Bylaw No. 3828, "Capital Regional District Board Procedures Bylaw, 2012", when conducting a meeting (the "CRD Procedures Bylaw").
27. All meetings of the Committee must be held in a public facility and must be open to the public. Meetings may be in-camera, where authorized by law.
28. The Committee may meet by electronic means, where the requirements in the CRD Procedures Bylaw are met.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

29. In discharging the Committee's grant function, any member who considers themselves in a pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflict of interest shall declare a conflict, which may include:
- (a) where their appointing agency is a direct recipient of a grant or assistance; or
 - (b) where a member or their immediate family owes a fiduciary duty, as a director, senior manager, or employee of an organization receiving funding,
- and shall recuse themselves in accordance with the CRD Procedures Bylaw and the *Community Charter*, SBC 2003, c 26.
30. On a majority vote of the Committee, School District and non-voting members representing an organization with a direct pecuniary interest in a grant may be invited to present on their organization's application, but shall not be present for debate nor the vote on the matter.

BUDGET

31. Upon its establishment and by October 1 of each year, the Committee shall prepare an annual budget, which shall include estimates for administrative costs, operations, grants, and other expenditures, and shall submit such estimates to the CRD's Chief Financial Officer for Regional Board approval and inclusion in provisional and annual budgets.

RECORD KEEPING

32. The Committee shall comply with all public record keeping requirements under the *Community Charter*, *Local Government Act*, and other applicable legislation.
33. Records shall be stored at the CRD. Agendas shall be provided in advance of meetings in accordance with the CRD Procedures Bylaw and meeting minutes shall be provided after each meeting.

CITATION

34. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2022".

READ A FIRST TIME THIS	9 th	day of	February,	2022
READ A SECOND TIME THIS	9 th	day of	February,	2022
READ A THIRD TIME THIS	9 th	day of	February,	2022
ADOPTED THIS	9 th	day of	February,	2022



CHAIR



CORPORATE OFFICER

Paterson notes on School Division 61 public meeting

A meeting was held on September 9, 2025, to discuss proposed changes to the election of School District 61 Trustees. Sherri Bell, the Official Trustee for SD62 and Councilor Tim Morrison, Esquimalt who introduced the resolution to consider a ward system, addressed and responded to questions from attendees. Songhees and Esquimalt Nations were present along with elected officials and representatives from Victoria, Saanich, Esquimalt, Oak Bay and View Royal and the CRD. If a ward system is adopted it would require equal representation from the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the six municipalities. A formal request must be submitted to Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care, one year in advance of elections that take place in October 2026. Presently 45 of B.C.'s 60 school districts have more than one electoral area for trustees, the rest elect trustees at large.

Financial Reports:

The CRD financial report for the period January – September 2025 shows a deficit of \$63,779.41 due to an error in the calculation. The correct amount should be \$31,555.25. The revised financial statement is pending.

The 2026 Draft Budget with 2025 forecast is attached for VFC&YJ Committee review.

October 14, 2025

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

From: Priorities Sub-committee, Chair-Marcie McLean

Subject: Grant application from Human Nature Counselling Society received Sept. 29, 2025

The Priorities Sub-committee has received and reviewed all of the required information necessary for the applicant to provide in order for their application to be considered.

Application background summary information for VFC&YJC. Attached to this report is the applicant's actual grant application(only) other required documents are on file with VFC&YJC as well as the CRD. And, draft motion options for VFC&YJC's consideration.

The Human Nature Counselling Society (HNCS) is a BC Registered Society and a Federal Registered Charity.

HNCS's Mission is to enhance mental health and well-being of children, youth, and families through effective, innovative, and low-barrier mental health counselling services and programs using nature-based therapy. With a Vision for everyone in the service area who strives for mental health and wellness has access to affordable counselling services and programs that foster a sense of belonging within family, community, and the non-human natural world. It should be noted that HNCS does not charge clients for this program.

Their team includes 23 highly skilled practitioners, most of whom hold master's level degrees in counselling psychology. Their goals in establishing programs are to: identify gaps in services and supporting youth initiatives, by designing programs that address unmet needs in the community, promoting meaningful reconciliation, amplifying youth voices by creating age group settings where young people can develop confidence, emotional regulation skills, and a sense of belonging and establishing relationships with school district, municipalities, First Nations, and community service providers.

Through this combination of expertise, partnerships, and alignment with the Committee's strategic priorities, HNCS staff and volunteers are well-positioned to deliver impactful, culturally responsive, and barrier-free programming for youth and families in the justice system or at risk of involvement.

Their project name of **New Roots Youth Anxiety Program** would take place at Government House Gardens for 3.5 months for 8 sessions of 2 hours each from Feb.16, 2026 to May 30, 2026. The target population for their program is youth ages 12-16 in the CRD who identify their main mental health concern as anxiety and are motivated to learn skills to better cope, but are unable to access private counselling or government funded services due to a myriad of factors including long-lists, costs, the indoor environment not being appealing to them, and preference for a peer group versus doing individual sessions. The program also offers 2 sessions to parents/caregivers to assist them in better understanding anxiety and how best to support their youth and strengthen the home support system.

Their grant request is for **\$5,500.00** which is the same amount requested last year and the funds are proposed to be used for: program planning and facilitation, equipment and supplies, staff mileage, celebration and snacks.

The entire proposed budget for their program is for \$9,700.00 (see pages 6, 8, and 9) of their application for further details. With potentially VFC&YJC providing \$5,500.00 and, additional balance of funds being provided by private donour and grants in the amount of \$4,200.00. If they receive the grant monies from the other organization(s) that they have applied to, then, they report that those funds would go towards 2026 fall program, as HNCS plans to hold 2 programs a year being spring and fall.

Page 3 of their application provides interesting details on the needs and problems to be addressed through the project/program work.

Each participant is initially assessed on needs and to establish goals, and personalized support, there will be program monitoring, outcome tracking, and evaluation to ensure effectiveness, guide improvements, and report impacts to funders. Page 5 of their application describes what each session includes.

If their application is approved by VFC&YJC, the applicant must provide a final report within 2 months of the project/program being completed. The applicant has indicated that they wish to present to the Committee at that time.

Priorities Sub-committee rationale for approval:

The HNCS appears to have the professionally qualified staff to carry on with this type of youth and family mental health education and programming. Other resource agencies working within the CRD have reported out many times over past but recent years to VFC&YJC that anxiety for children and youth has escalated and has become critical, as well as Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth BC's Representative for Children and Youth reports and recommendations to the Province of BC on the matter of youth anxiety.

It would appear that youth, their families and caregivers gaining better coping skills for behaviours and coping skills will improve peoples' decision making and potential reduce them coming into contact with justice systems such as family law and the youth criminal justice. Thus, potentially aligning with VFC&YJC Mandate, and Strategic Goals of their Strategic Plan.

Proposed draft motion and recommendation from the Priorities Sub committee:

“That the Human Nature Counselling Society’s grant request for \$5,500.00 for their spring 2026 New Roots Youth Anxiety Program be approved by Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee”.

Alternatively, to the above proposed motion the VFC&YJC may consider to:
Reduce the amount of the grant requested by HNCS. Or, deny the grant request from HNCS.

Project Number

GRANTS AND PRIORITIES FORM AND APPLICATION

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

PART A - CONTACT INFORMATION			
Date of Application: September 25th, 2025		Legal Name of Applicant / Organization Human Nature Counselling Society	
Address 743 Vancouver Street, Victoria BC, V8V3V4		Telephone Number 2505887214	Website www.humannaturecounselling.ca
Name of Contact Person David Segal		Telephone Number of Contact Person 250-588-7214	
Email Address of Contact Person david@humannaturecounselling.ca			
Alternate Contact Person Katy Rose		Telephone Number of Alternate Contact Person 250-587-6017	
Email Address of Alternate Contact Person katy@humannaturecounselling.ca			
PART B – ORGANIZATION DETAILS (If applicable)			
Is the Organization a Registered Society in BC? YES ☒ NO ☐ NA ☐		Registered Number under the BC Society Act S0072377	
Is the Organization a Registered Charity? YES ☒ NO ☐		Is the Organization a Business? YES ☐ NO ☒	
Legal or Tradename of Organization or “NA” if individual Human Nature Counselling Society		Date the Organization was Created (yyyy/mm/dd) 2019/12/09	
Mandate and main activities of the organization or applicable history of related projects:			
Mission: To enhance the mental health and well-being of children, youth, and families through effective, innovative, and low-barrier mental health counselling services and programs using nature-based therapy. Vision: Everyone in HNCS’s service area who strives for mental health and wellness has access to affordable counselling services and programs that foster a sense of belonging within family, community, and the non-human natural world.			

HNCS focuses on accessible, nature-connected, and equitable mental health support that strengthens individuals, families, and communities.

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

Human-Nature Counselling Society (HNCS) brings over a decade of experience providing innovative, evidence-informed mental health support to children, youth, and families in the Capital Regional District. Since 2012, HNCS has specialized in Nature-Based Therapy (NBT)—an approach that removes barriers by meeting clients in local parks near their homes or via secure telehealth when needed. This flexibility has been especially effective for youth and families facing systemic barriers and for those who may struggle to engage in traditional office-based settings.

Our team includes 23 highly skilled practitioners, most of whom hold master's-level degrees in counselling psychology, with specialized training in NBT, trauma-informed care, family systems, and child and youth mental health. All staff and volunteers are committed to centering youth and families as experts in their own lives, and to creating culturally responsive, low-barrier supports.

HNCS was co-founded by David Segal and Katy Rose, both with over 15 years of experience in NBT. Together with Dr. Nevin Harper (University of Victoria), they co-authored *Nature-Based Therapy: A Practitioner's Guide to Working Outdoors with Children, Youth, and Families* (2019), a foundational text in the field.

Beyond individual counselling, HNCS offers group programs such as *Family Roots* (for solo parents), *New Roots* (for youth with anxiety), *Guam Guam Specums* (for Indigenous youth in schools), and *Coyote Tracks/Lynx Tracks* (for peer-based social-emotional support). 95% of group programs are offered at no cost, ensuring access for vulnerable youth and families.

Our staff and facilitators share the Committee's vision of ensuring that families and youth have access to timely and appropriate supports and align closely with the Committee's goals, particularly:

- **Identifying gaps in services and supporting youth initiatives**, by designing programs that address unmet needs in the community.
- **Promoting meaningful reconciliation**, through ongoing partnerships with local First Nations (e.g., Songhees, Pauquachin) and Indigenous-led programming.
- **Amplifying youth voices**, by creating safe group settings where young people develop confidence, emotional regulation skills, and a sense of belonging.
- **Facilitating collaboration**, through established relationships with school districts (61, 62, 63, and 79), municipalities, and community service providers.

Through this combination of expertise, partnerships, and alignment with the Committee's strategic priorities, HNCS staff and volunteers are well-positioned to deliver impactful, culturally responsive, and barrier-free programming for youth and families in the justice system or at risk of involvement.

PART C - PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name: New Roots Youth Anxiety Program	Project Location: Each program day will take place at Government House Gardens.
Start Date (yyyy/mm/dd): 2026/02/16	Completion Date (yyyy/mm/dd): 2026/05/30

Catchment area served – Target population

The target population for New Roots are youth ages 12-16 in the CRD who identify their main mental health concern as anxiety and are motivated to learn skills to better cope. The program also offers two sessions to parents/caregivers of these youth to assist them in understanding anxiety and how to best support their youth.

The participants are youth who are in need of mental health services, but are unable to access private counselling or government funded services due to myriad of factors including long wait-lists, cost, the indoor environment not appealing to them, or they prefer to be with a peer group versus doing individual sessions.

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:

Goals and Objectives of New Roots

The New Roots program is a nature-based mental health and wellness initiative designed for youth aged 12–16, aiming to transform their relationship with anxiety and worry within a supportive group environment. By immersing participants in the natural world, New Roots cultivates connections to nature, oneself, and peers, fostering a strong sense of belonging. The program provides age-appropriate psychological education and therapeutic interventions that help youth understand anxiety, its mechanisms, and practical strategies to manage it. By directly addressing anxiety and promoting mental health wellness, New Roots reduces key risk factors—such as isolation, impulsive behaviors, and poor decision-making—that can contribute to involvement with judicial or family court systems, supporting youth to integrate and contribute positively to their communities.

Relevance to the VFC&YCJ Mandate

New Roots closely aligns with the VFC&YCJ mandate, which seeks to improve outcomes for youth and families while reducing their contact with the judicial system. By focusing on mental health and wellbeing, the program addresses risk factors that often precede justice involvement. Nature-based group sessions provide a safe, engaging space for youth to explore anxiety, practice coping strategies, and build supportive peer relationships. Group sessions, facilitated by mental health professionals, integrate psychological education and experiential learning.

Parent and caregiver engagement is incorporated to educate families about anxiety and to strengthen the home support system, which is essential for sustainable youth mental health. By equipping youth and families with knowledge, coping strategies, and social support, New Roots not only improves individual wellbeing but also fosters stronger connections within schools and communities. Through these combined efforts, the program actively reduces the likelihood of justice system involvement, ensuring youth have the support and resources to thrive.

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

Structured Group Sessions: Eight 2-hour sessions for youth, delivered in nature-based settings, focusing on anxiety management, coping strategies, and peer connection.

Individual Intake & Assessment: Each participant receives an initial intake session to assess needs, establish goals, and personalize support.

Parent/Caregiver Education Sessions: Sessions to engage parents and caregivers, provide psychoeducation on anxiety, and offer strategies to support youth at home.

Program Materials and Resources: Therapeutic tools, art materials, and other supplies necessary to support program activities.

Professional Facilitation: Delivery of all sessions by trained, master's-level mental health practitioners with expertise in Nature-Based Therapy and youth mental health.

Evaluation & Reporting: Program monitoring, outcome tracking, and evaluation to ensure effectiveness, guide improvements, and report impact to funders.

Community Impact: By providing timely and accessible mental health support, the program alleviates pressure on government services and addresses anxiety, the top concern reported by youth in the region.

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

- Ideally, New Roots is offered twice a year: once in the spring and once in the fall.
- Each session includes:
 - Opening and closing check-in circles
 - Psychoeducation on anxiety and coping
 - Mindfulness and other mind-body activities (e.g., yoga)
 - Practicing positive coping strategies
 - Expressive arts (improv, clay sculpting, journaling, collaging)
 - Quiet solo time in nature
 - Environmental education and restoration projects
 - Two parent sessions tailored to parent needs, covering topics such as understanding anxiety and the avoidance cycle, strategies for connecting with youth, and supporting youth in taking charge of anxiety versus relying on harmful coping strategies

Project Timeline and Anticipated Outcomes:

1. January – February: Intake and Planning

- Activities: Participant recruitment, intake assessments, parent engagement, finalization of curriculum and program plan.
- Outcomes: Secure participation of 8-10 youth and 15 parents; ensure parent commitment for sessions; establish clear program structure and goals.

2. March – April: Program Delivery

- Activities: Deliver 8 weekly youth sessions and 2 parent sessions.
- Outcomes: Provide high-quality, cost-effective mental health support to 8-10 youth and approximately 15 parents, impacting over 40 individuals including family members. Reduce the likelihood of youth requiring more acute services (e.g., emergency interventions or residential care). Foster improved coping skills, emotional regulation, and peer and family connections.

3. May: Program Closure and Evaluation

- Activities: Complete final evaluation report; provide follow-up referrals and resources to families as needed.
- Outcomes: Measure and document program effectiveness, ensuring evidence-informed improvements; support continuity of care and connections to additional community resources.

PART D – BUDGET DETAILS		
Budget: to include clear accounting with potential line items and accompanying narrative, please include funding from other sources (Feel free to attach a spreadsheet if needed): See budget below.		
Other funding avenues/partners being explored: Human-Nature Counselling Society has applied to VanCity and Victoria Saanich Rotary for additional program funding. We also have committed support from a private donor. If successful with these applications, we will have sufficient funding to offer two full iterations of the New Roots program per year—one in the fall and one in the winter/spring —ensuring greater accessibility and continuity of support for participating youth and families.		
Evaluation framework (How will you know if your project has been a success, and how will VFC&YJC Attendance and Participation: Youth “vote with their feet”—consistent enrollment and high attendance demonstrate that the program is engaging and meeting participants’ needs. In previous offerings of New Roots, we have observed strong retention, and we anticipate the same for future sessions. Participants’ increasing engagement throughout the program—reflected in their willingness to share, contribute to group discussions, and participate in activities—will serve as a key indicator of program success. Self-Report Questionnaires – Youth: Both youth and parents will complete questionnaires before and after the program to track progress. Outcomes measured include: • Ability to talk about their feelings with others • Confidence in handling typical daily challenges • Use of strategies or techniques to manage strong emotions • Positive self-concept and self-esteem • Tools for coping with anxiety and worry • Positive connections with peers • Skills to connect with others and make friends • Connection to nature Parent Feedback: Parents will complete surveys assessing perceived changes in their child’s coping, emotional regulation, and overall wellbeing, providing an additional perspective on program impact. How VFC&YJC Will Know: We will provide the committee with a comprehensive report which highlights the combination of attendance data, youth self-reports, and parent feedback provides clear evidence of engagement, skill development, and improvements in wellbeing, demonstrating the program’s effectiveness to the committee.		
Are you willing to present to the Committee upon completion? YES ☒ NO ☐		

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- be an individual or organization operating in the capital region; and

- if an organization, the Board of Directors or shareholders must not receive remuneration of any kind from the VFC&YJC funds.

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

Eligible Expenses

- travel expenditures that are necessary to the successful completion of the Project;
- costs associated with contractors engaged to undertake the Project activities, such as website developers or researchers;
- venue bookings;
- materials and supplies expenditures;
- equipment rentals;
- vehicle rental, lease, and operation expenditures;
- communication and printing, production, advertising, and distribution expenditures;
- costs associated with management and professional services required to support a Project; and
- other direct costs necessary for the completion of the Project that may be agreed to in writing by VYC&YJC from time to time.

Ineligible Expenses

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

General

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

Application Requirements

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

Assessment

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

Budget

	Item	Detail	Cost	Total Funds
Revenue s	Private Donor and Grants	We have secured a recurring donation from one of our long-term supporters for each of the New Roots programs (\$4200) VanCity Local Branch (\$500) Not confirmed Saanich Victoria Rotary (\$5500) Not confirmed	\$4200	\$4200
	VFC&YJCA	We are hoping to be successful with this grant application to ensure the program continues to be offered to the community. If we are not successful with this grant or the others, then we will either only run one iteration of the program or postpone it by a year.	\$5500	\$5500
TOTAL				\$9700
Expenses	Planning and Facilitation	Program design, client intake and facilitation for 8 sessions plus 2 parent sessions	7044	7044
	Clinical Supervision	Program oversight as well as clinical supervision for the facilitators as they plan and deliver the program to the youth	1406	1406
	Equipment and Supplies	Journals, experiential activity supplies (e.g. art supplies)	350	350
	Healthy Snacks	Snacks for each session, plus	500	500

		food for the final celebration including the parents		
	Travel	Mileage for team members to travel to and from the program location as well as to support youth to travel to the site when required.	400	400
TOTAL				\$9700

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 and in copy to 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

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

Name of applicant/representative

Name (Print)	David Segal
Signature	
Position Title	Executive Director
Date (YYYY/MM/DD)	2025/09/25

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 or (250) 360-5673).



Meeting Notes from October 8, 2025

Attending: Bill, Marilyn, Cathy

1. Meeting called to order at 12:05pm
2. Cathy reported on the "Not in My City" workshop put on by St. Andrews Cathedral on Saturday September 27, featuring several speakers, on the issue of the sexual exploitation of youth in our community. The grooming and exploitation of youth is now taking place on the internet. There was a full house at this sold-out event, featuring many men and women.
3. Chair's position. Bill advised that his term as Chair expires at the AGM of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee on January 22, 2026 and he will not be seeking another term, having served as Chair of CRAT since 2007.
4. Financial Report: Bill presented the ledger page from Oak Bay Municipality, which has kept CRAT's books since 1998. There is currently \$4,858.29 remaining in our account. We received a bequest around 2019 of \$12,000 to develop and print a graphic novel about the sexual exploitation of youth. So far this year, we have spent \$8160 on developing a script and doing the artwork and cover for a 14-page booklet.

Bill also reported that he had followed up on our grant from the CRD and found out that we have not received the grant for 4 years. Apparently, as the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee came under the auspices of the CRD, the funding stopped and we need to develop a new process for annual funding. Because we are meeting online and not in person, we have not been spending funds on lunches. However we still have expenses for our website, and other miscellaneous costs.

5. MYST Update: no report from MYST
6. Graphic Novel Update: The graphic novel has been completed, but needs some tweaking before printing. Bill will work with Sage and a graphic designer to get the graphic novel ready for printing. Sage has drawn the cover at a cost of \$500, for which Bill has reimbursed her. Now Bill needs to be reimbursed by Oak Bay.

Motion: That reimbursement of \$500 be made to Bill McElroy for his payment to Sage for the cover of the graphic novel.

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. This should be finalized by the incoming CRAT Committee who will be selected in January 2026.
8. Meeting adjourned at 12:40.

Next meeting, January 13, 2026, 12 noon, Electronic or in person.



October __, 2025

Attention: The Honourable Niki Sharma
Attorney General and Deputy Premier

Dear Attorney General Sharma,

As you're aware, the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee is a designated committee of the Capital Regional District. It is comprised of appointed elected representatives from the 13 CRD municipalities, trustees from Greater Victoria's three school boards and at-large CRD appointees. Please learn more about our mandate and work at our [website](#).

At our meeting of June 26, 2025, VFCYJC members unanimously passed the following resolution:

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 KC, namely Recommendation #4 from his 2019 Roads to Revival review of the BC legal aid system:

"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."

The main motion was amended to also include Recommendation #15 from *Roads to Revival*:

"Create a Child Protection Clinic to help parents before child protection concerns have reached the level of Ministry of Children and Family Development intervention and to serve as a practice resource centre for lawyers representing parents in contested child protection matters."

Invited to our meeting of April 24 this year, Mr. Maclaren presented the VFCYJC with an update on [Roads to Revival: An External Aid Service Delivery in BC](#), the commissioned report he delivered in January 2019 to the office of then-Attorney General David Eby.

Mr. Maclaren received submissions from 130 individuals and 12 organizations, heard from 240 people across 37 municipalities, and a wide range of other stakeholders -- Legal Services Society staff, judges, lawyers, legal advocates, articulated students, law students, legal-aid plan administrators, non-profit service providers and the public included.

In his conclusions, he wrote: "System reform should not be a linear process led by experts, but rather an iterative process involving continuous learning and adaptation that leads to improvement from the perspective of users. I have adopted this approach throughout my report, along with

[Access to Justice BC's Triple Aim Framework](#), with its three core pursuits of better user outcomes, better user experiences and lower system costs."

During his recent update to the VFCYJC, Maclaren praised the Province for delivering on a number of key priorities identified in *Roads to Revival*, including the establishment of [Indigenous Justice Centres](#) across BC and the creation of the [Immigration & Refugee Legal Clinic](#) in Vancouver. (See the appendix below for his April 2025 summary of fully and partially implemented recommendations within the report.)

The Committee asked Mr. Maclaren which recommendation he would like to see the Province tackle next, and he pointed to **Recommendation #4** with the logic that "what gets measured gets managed."

As *Roads to Revival* states in regard to this recommendation: *"There is too little being done across Canada to coordinate the collection and analysis of justice system data. This stifles innovation and contributes to duplication of justice reform efforts. BC would benefit from an independent and overarching body that is mandated and resourced to coordinate the collection and analysis of standardized justice system data from across the province. The data could then be used to assess the individual and aggregate performance of justice sector organizations—like LSS, the BC Prosecution Service and the courts—against national benchmarks. This would cultivate greater transparency and accountability in measuring performance."*

Maclaren suggested that a new independent office (to perhaps be titled Office of the Access to Justice Commissioner) would be akin to the independent Office of the Human Rights Commissioner, but with more focus on analytics and observations than advocacy.

"This Access to Justice Commissioner could receive and analyze progress reports from all justice institutions, including courts and government, to broaden the scope of institutional accountability for increasing access to justice, and to bring exposure and objectivity to inconvenient truths like the chronic underfunding of legal aid," he said.

"A newly established regulator would be required to publish annual performance reports while also commissioning regular independent reviews of the progress it makes in facilitating access to legal services."

This data would frame strategic objectives accordingly. Publicly accessible reports and review will redirect the regulator's main accountability to the public and "spur real action."

"The Office of the Access to Justice Commissioner would fulfill my Recommendation 4 to 'task and support an independent body [...] to coordinate the collection and analysis of standardized performance data across BC's justice system.'"

At the VFCYJC's June meeting, committee members amended the main motion presented above to include Maclaren's call for the establishment of a **Child Protection Clinic** to help children in contested protection matters (as per Recommendation #15 in *Roads to Revival*, pg. 42/43). It is worth quoting Maclaren at length on the subject from his report:

“I heard from many frontline legal service providers about the individual and community impacts of Parents Legal Centres. Most of them praised the PLC staff model for the holistic range of services it is able to arrange in developing customized support for parents in crisis. At the same time, most of them disapproved of the PLC policy of only serving parents in uncontested child-protection matters. In cases where parents wish to challenge an MCFD order, they must make a standard application to LSS for a lawyer funded by legal aid. Some review contributors viewed this policy as giving tacit encouragement to parents and guardians to consent to MCFD orders even when they fundamentally oppose them. Giving consent may, in some cases, result in a child being placed in foster care. This creates an unfair choice for parents who may not appreciate that other options are available to them.

“Since 56 percent of all children in care in BC are Indigenous, many lawyers view this situation as ongoing evidence of systemic discrimination. Despite governments agreeing to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in care, little has been done to correct the power imbalance that Indigenous parents confront when the state intervenes to remove their children.

As a vital step toward correcting this imbalance, parents’ lawyers proposed the creation of a child-protection clinic. It would be similar in its holistic approach to a PLC, but not premised on parental consent to MCFD orders. Such a clinic would provide parents with sufficient supports—including representation by staff or tariff lawyers—to challenge MCFD decisions, if they so desire.

The clinic would also serve as a centre for shared knowledge, strategy and practice resources for tariff lawyers across the province. It should be located in the Metro Vancouver area and include Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff lawyers and advocates who are sufficiently resourced to travel to different BC communities, as needed. The creation of this clinic is the highest priority of all of my recommendations.”

Thank you, Ms. Sharma, for your work and dedication to making tangible differences in the lives of British Columbians.

We are encouraged to read in your mandate letter of July 17, 2025, that you are to “use effective engagement with key stakeholders and aggressive innovation in relation to technology, rules and citizen-oriented processes to improve access to justice and reduce costs, increase speed and deliver independent and impartial justice and dispute resolution.”

We at the VFCYJC sincerely believe that acting upon these two recommendations in Mr. Maclaren’s essential report will help deliver exactly these important and timely ambitions.

sincerely,

Marie-Terese Little,

Chair, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee
Vice-Chair, Capital Regional District Board of Directors
Mayor, District of Metchosin

cc Premier David Eby
cc The Hon. Jodie Wickens, Minister of Children and Family Development
cc CRD Board of Directors

Appendix: Roads To Revival Progress Report – April 2025

As shared by Jamie Maclaren with the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee

Priority Recommendations Fully Implemented

RECOMMENDATIONS 13/18 - Fund and support an integrated network of independent community legal clinics with modular teams of lawyers and advocates providing family law and poverty law services.

RECOMMENDATION 16 - Support the iterative and scalable development of Indigenous Justice Centres as culturally safe sites for holistic legal aid service to Indigenous people.

RECOMMENDATION 17 - Create and embed a Refugee Legal Clinic in the integrated services hub at the Immigrant Services Society of BC's Welcome Centre in Vancouver or Surrey

Priority Recommendations Partially Implemented

RECOMMENDATION 3 - Develop and launch an online client portal to accept legal aid applications, to diagnose and treat clients' legal problems, and to empower clients in the active management of their own cases.

RECOMMENDATION 14 - Broaden the scope of Indigenous legal aid services to include more preventative services that are not premised on agreeing to state intervention or correction, which impose stigma.

RECOMMENDATION 24 - Develop a Major Case Team of LSS staff lawyers and paralegals to provide in-house capacity and to support tariff lawyer capacity for long and complex criminal case work.

Priority Recommendations Not Yet Implemented

RECOMMENDATION 4 - Task and support an independent body, like Access to Justice BC, the Access to Justice Center for Excellence or the Office of the Auditor General, to coordinate the collection and analysis of standardized performance data across BC's justice system.

RECOMMENDATION 15 - Create a Child Protection Clinic to help parents before child protection concerns have reached the level of Ministry of Children & Family Development intervention, and to serve as a practice resource centre for lawyers representing parents in contested child protection matters.

RECOMMENDATION 22 - Create an experimental Criminal Law Office along a major transit route in Metro Vancouver, with a team of criminal staff lawyers, paralegals, administrators and support workers providing general and specialized legal aid services.

RECOMMENDATION 23 - Create a Criminal Resource Centre at the Criminal Law Office that offers free access to tariff lawyers, pro bono lawyers and other legal aid service providers, and provides space for co-working and training as well as resources for legal research and practice management.

VFCYJC Communications Sub-Committee – Notes

Tuesday, July 8 - 11AM via Zoom

Present: Christine Lervold, Marcie McLean, Teri VanWell, Jeff Bateman (Chair)

Jeff began meeting at 11:02 with a territorial acknowledgement

1. Calls For Action: Service Gaps for Youth & More

Action: Communications Sub-Committee Notice of Motion to be presented at the October 23 VFCYJC meeting for a special November meeting at which we would invite representatives from the three School Districts to inform and discuss content of the draft Call to Action letter.

Action: Christine to arrange a working group meeting with Teri and Marcie in near future to discuss and refine Draft 7.

Action: Christine to arrange meeting with Paul Block + Teri and Marcie, possibly as early as next week.

Working group discussion of draft 7 of Calls For Action as prepared by Marcie McLean – please see separate attachment, included for discussion here but not for wider distribution to the committee. Based on the following motion ...

Jan. 23, 2025

13.1. Motion with Notice – M. McLean

MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by C. Day,

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

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

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

These future letter(s) to be sent to:

*Premier David Eby,

*Attorney General & Deputy Premier: Niki Sharma,

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

*Minister of Health: Honourable Josie Osbourne,

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

*Minister of Education and Child Care: Honourable Lisa Beare,
*Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation: Honourable Christine Boyle,
*Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction: Honourable Sheila Malcolmson,
*Minister of Finance: Honourable Brenda Bailey
*Minister of State for Child Care and Children and Youth with Support Needs: Honourable Jodie Wickens,
*Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services: Honourable Terry Yung,

Cc: Jennifer Charlesworth, Representative for Children and Youth BC,
Cc: Integrated Police Units Regional Governance Council
CARRIED
Opposed E. Paterson

2. Panel Discussion – VFCYJC Meeting of Oct. 23, 2025

Panel discussion focused on the future of three youth-serving integrated regional service agencies in Greater Victoria: Island Health's [Integrated Regional Mobile Crisis Response Team](#); the [Integrated Regional Domestic Violence Unit](#); and the [Mobile Youth Services Team](#).

Based on following motion passed on June 26:

M. McLean: "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 taxpayer'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.

Action: Invitations to be sent ASAP to the six boldfaced individuals/organizations (Jeff)

- 10-minute presentations for each
- Q&A session to follow
- same template as last year's panel discussion

- * MYST's Mia Golden, confirmed by Marcie
- * Sgt. John Cawsey, Integrated Regional Domestic Violence Unit, confirmed by Marcie
- * IRMCRT rep TBD, unconfirmed
- * three police chiefs (Inspector Steve Rose to succeed Todd Preston), unconfirmed

[Times Colonist article – Feb. 23, 2025](#) - Domestic violence unit
[Annual Report for Integrated Police Units, 2022/23](#)

* Facilitator ... **Action: Jeff to contact former VFCYJC member & SD 62 trustee Margot Swinburnson.** He will facilitate if all else fails.

*** Action: Jeff to confirm meeting location with Marie-Tereze; sub-committee recommends the CRD boardroom**

3. Website update

[Honeycomb Webworks](#) is on retainer at \$250/month. Ryan spoke at the April meeting and his [proposal for revisions](#) has been shared with the committee. He is invited to speak to the Committee again about this at the October meeting. Ryan is responsible for the [Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities](#) and [Local Government Management Association](#) websites.

Action: Jeff to touch base again with Ryan. His presentation may need to be delayed until 2026 given that October meeting will be largely taken up by the panel discussion.

4. Future Meeting Speakers

- 4x meetings in 2026 TBD

- [Cedar Dodd](#), BC First Nations Justice Council
- [Cheryl Chaytors](#), Boys and Girls Club (provided brief report on Jan. 23)
- TBD, Victoria Native Friendship Centre
- Del Manak, Victoria PD ([retiring](#) in fall 2025)
- Dr. [Jennifer Charlesworth](#), BC Youth and Children's Representative
- [Jodie Wickins, Minister of Children and Family Development](#)
- [Patrick Johnston, ED, Victoria Rainbow Kitchen Society](#)

5. Social Media

- Jeff continues to post sporadically for small audience (133 followers on Facebook)
- X account has been paused as per Committee direction
- Continued thanks to Marnie for sharing potential posts.

6. Advocacy Letter re: Jamie Maclean' Road to Revival report

- Motion approved on June 26
- Focused on two recommendations:

* "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."

* Create a Child Protection Clinic to help parents before child protection concerns have reached the level of Ministry of Children & Family Development intervention, and to serve as a practice resource centre for lawyers representing parents in contested child protection matters.

Action: Jeff to draft letter once he receives the approved June 26 motion. Draft will be shared with the Sub-Committee and Chair Little for revisions.

7. Other Business

- No other business

Adjourn – 12:05 PM

Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee						
Draft Budget January - December 2026						
	2025 Board Budget		2025 Jan-Sept Actual	2025 Forecast		2026 Draft Budget
OPERATING COSTS:						
Internal Allocation	1,172.00		879.03	879.03		1,172.00
Honoraria	-		-			-
Meeting Costs	8,160.00		4,226.00	5,654.00	Note 2	8,160.00
Operating - Other Costs	-		2,300.00	3,300.00	Note 3	3,315.00
Grants in aid - unspecified	39,320.00		8,707.05	14,207.05	Note 4	10,900.00
Third Party Payments	-		-			-
Total Operating Costs	48,652.00		16,112.08	24,040.08		23,547.00
Total Costs	48,652.00		16,112.08	24,040.08		23,547.00
Internal Recoveries	-		-			-
Recoveries - Other	-		-			-
OPERATING COSTS LESS INTERNAL REC	48,652.00		16,112.08	24,040.08		23,547.00
FUNDING SOURCES (REVENUE)						
Balance C/F from Prior to Current Year	(32,849.00)		32,849.33	32,849.33		23,627.25
Interest Income	-		620.24	620.24		-
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	(803.00)		(802.24)	(802.24)		(802.24)
Requisition	(15,000.00)		15,000.00	15,000.00		15,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	(48,652.00)		47,667.33	47,667.33		37,825.01
(Surplus)Deficit	-	Note 1	(31,555.25)	(23,627.25)		(14,278.01)
Note 1 reflects CRD zero based budget						
Note 2 forecast to year end						
Note 3 forecast to year end						
Note 4 includes \$5500 for 2026 grant to Nature Counselling						
Note 5 interest to be adjusted by CRD						

1.126 Vic Family Court & Youth Justice Committee
Fiscal period January-September 2025

	2025 BOARD BUDGET	2025 JAN-SEP ACTUAL
<u>OPERATING COSTS:</u>		
Internal Allocation	1,172.00	879.03
Honoraria		-
Meeting Costs	8,160.00	4,226.00
Operating - Other Costs	-	2,300.00
Grants in aid - unspecified	39,320.00	8,707.05
Third Party Payments	-	-
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	48,652.00	16,112.08
TOTAL COSTS	48,652.00	16,112.08
Internal Recoveries	-	-
Recoveries - Other	-	-
OPERATING COSTS LESS INTERNAL RECOVERIES	48,652.00	16,112.08
<u>FUNDING SOURCES (REVENUE)</u>		
Balance C/F from Prior to Current year	(32,849.00)	32,849.33
Interest Income	-	620.24
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	(803.00)	(802.24)
Requisition	(15,000.00)	15,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	(48,652.00)	47,667.33
<u>(Surplus)Deficit</u>	-	63,779.41

- 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-September 2025

DetailMeeting Costs

Over acccruel 2024	-	409.64
January 2025 Secretarial (Including WCB)		409.40
Ali Baba Pizza		87.80
February 2025 Secretarial (Including WCB)		409.40
March 2025 Secretarial (Including WCB)		409.40
April 2025 Secretarial (Including WCB)		409.40
Ali Baba Pizza		87.85
Truffles Catering (VFCYJC Open House)		525.80
May 2025 Secretarial (Including WCB)		409.40
Dollarama		7.49
Save on Foods		25.72
June 2025 Secretarial (Including WCB)		409.40
Ali Baba Pizza		74.91
July 2025 Secretarial (Including WCB)		409.40
City of Victoria (Security)		141.47
August 2025 Secretarial (Including WCB)		409.40
September 2025 Secretarial (Including WCB)		409.40
		4,226.00

Other Operating Cost

iStock (January)	50.00
Honeycomb Webworks December 24 (Web Site Mgmt)	250.00
Honeycomb Webworks January (Web Site Mgmt)	250.00
Honeycomb Webworks February (Web Site Mgmt)	250.00
Honeycomb Webworks March (Web Site Mgmt)	250.00
Honeycomb Webworks April (Web Site Mgmt)	250.00
Honeycomb Webworks May (Web Site Mgmt)	250.00
Honeycomb Webworks June (Web Site Mgmt)	250.00
Honeycomb Webworks July (Web Site Mgmt)	250.00
Honeycomb Webworks August (Web Site Mgmt)	250.00
	2,300.00

Third Party Payments / Honoraria

Victoria Youth Empowerment	8,000.00
Cathy Peters	307.05
Caileigh Owen	200.00
Meghan Klymchuk	200.00
	8,707.05



Notice of Motion:

"That the number of Meetings of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee be increased from 4 meetings to 6 meetings per year"

Proposed by Bill McElroy, community representative to the VFCYJC

(I request that we waive notice of motion requirements for a same-day discussion and decision on this motion, time permitting)

Rationale:

The VFCYJC used to meet 8 times per year, but this was reduced to 4 when we became a Designated Commission of the Capital Region District. In the past year, it has been challenging to carry out our mandate in 4 meetings.

A compromise between the former number of meetings and the existing number of meetings may provide an opportunity to bring in a variety of guest speakers to raise awareness of family and youth matters, and to assist in our goal of reducing the impact of youth in the criminal justice system.

One meeting per year should be set in the Saanich Peninsula and one meeting per year set in the Westshore area.

It is also recommended that the AGM be a stand-alone event in January of each year, in order to have a guest speaker and time to review the Annual Report.

Suggested Schedule 2026:

AGM - Jan. 22

Regular - Feb. 26

Regular - April 23

Open House - May/June

Regular - June 25

Regular - Sept 24 (Post UBCM)

Regular - Nov. 26 (first meeting of new appointees post-election)