

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

JUSTICE COUNCIL/FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Madam/Gentlemen:

REPORT OF THE JUSTICE COUNCIL/FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE

Recommendations:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information purposes.
2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Honourable B.R.D. Smith, Attorney General, Province of British Columbia, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X4.

REPORT

The Revised Statutes of British Columbia 1979, Chapter 341, "Provincial Court Act", Section 4.(4)(c) provides as follows:

4. (4) The family court committee shall

- (c) report annually to the municipalities involved and to the Attorney General respecting their activities during the past year.

In compliance with the abovenoted statutory requirement, contained hereunder is a summary of the activities of the Burnaby Justice Council/Family Court Committee for 1983.

PRESENTATION OF CHILDREN'S FURNITURE

In 1981 two members of the Justice Council/Family Court Committee attended Family Court in the Burnaby Justice Building. As a result of their observations it was brought to their attention that, while parents are attending Family Court, their children are not provided with recreation to occupy their time. This concern was expressed to the Justice Council/Family Court Committee who then made enquiries as to what type of recreation facilities were required and who would provide them.

The Ministry of the Attorney General responded to the request and as a result, Ms. Charlene Howe, Community Services Officer and Mr. Don Byce, Project Worker from the Ministry, attended the meeting of the Justice Council/Family Court Committee held on 1983 January 26 and presented a childrens picnic table and a miniature stove and fridge.

In giving further consideration to the acceptance of the childrens furniture, it was determined by the Burnaby Justice Building Administration that any paraphernalia in the area of the Court Rooms could cause a security problem and also that sufficient space was not available.

As a result of further enquiries made by the Committee, the childrens furniture was presented and gratefully accepted by the Marguerite Dixon Transition House in Burnaby on 1983 March 09.

:- AGENDA 1984 MARCH 12
:- COPY-MANAGER

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BURNABY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE COMMITTEE

The Justice Council/Family Court Committee at their meeting held on 1983 January 26 heard a presentation from Mrs. Susan Varvarikos, United Way of the Lower Mainland Burnaby Division, requesting the Committee to appoint a liaison representative to attend a seminar on Child Sexual Abuse scheduled for 1983 February 11. Mrs. Varvarikos advised that she too would be attending this seminar.

A verbal report was submitted to the Committee at the 1983 February 23 meeting regarding the Seminar on Child Sexual Abuse. Concerns were expressed respecting the role played by the Ministry of Human Resources and the Provincial Health Branch when dealing with child sexual abuse cases. As a result of these concerns the Committee invited a representative from the Ministry of Human Resources to attend the next scheduled meeting of the Committee to address these concerns.

Ms. Elizabeth Smith, District Supervisor from the Burnaby Division, Ministry of Human Resources, and Mrs. Carol Upham, Social Worker, attended the meeting of the Justice Council/Family Court Committee on 1983 March 23 and addressed the concerns of the Committee with respect to the procedures followed by the Ministry when a child sexual abuse case is reported.

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT UNIT, B.C. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (THE MAPLES)

The Justice Council/Family Court Committee, at their meeting held on 1983 April 27, heard a presentation from Mr. Fred Bannon, Liaison Officer, Residential Treatment Unit, B.C. Youth Development Centre, who reported on the latest developments of Phase I. Phase II and Phase III of "The Maples" on Willingdon Avenue in Burnaby.

In 1982 July, Phase I of the B.C. Youth Development Centre officially opened. Phase II was to open in September and it was planned that Phase III would open in November of 1982. After Phase I had been officially opened, a hiring freeze came into effect and as a result Phase II and Phase III remained closed. Mr. Bannon also advised that there were difficulties with Phase I of the project in that the Fire Commissioner advised that it had not been constructed to Fire Code Standards and therefore, approximately \$250,000.00 has been spent to meet those necessary requirements.

With respect to Phase II, Mr. Bannon advised that the building has been completed, the hiring freeze had been lifted, and it was scheduled to officially open in 1983 May. Another staff hiring freeze came into effect but was currently being negotiated with the Provincial Government.

A letter dated 1983 March 28 was received from Honourable W.R. Bennett, Premier, Province of British Columbia, as the result of a telegram sent by the Committee requesting the immediate release of funds for the hiring of staff for Phase II and Phase III. The Premier advised that staffing positions for Phase II of the facility have been released and they are currently in the training process and upon completion of the required training, Phase II should be open by 1983 May 15. The Premier further advised that staffing positions for the Phase III facility will be released shortly in order to allow the training to begin.

DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS OF A CORONER

The Justice Council/Family Court Committee, at their meeting held on 1983 May 25 heard a presentation from Mr. Gerry Tilley, District Coroner, Coroners Service, Ministry of the Attorney General, who gave a brief description of the reasons a coroner would be called upon to investigate a death, i.e. anything which constitutes an unexpected or sudden death, and the course of events which take place under these circumstances.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At the Justice Council/Family Court Committee meeting held on 1983 September 28, Mrs. Susan Varvarikos, United Way of the Lower Mainland, Burnaby Division, introduced the concept of establishing a Community Standards Committee in the District of Burnaby. The mandate of this Committee would be to provide community awareness and serve an educational function with respect to pornography.

The District of Coquitlam has initiated the Community Standards Committee in their community and it has been a very successful community awareness group. The District of Coquitlam has produced a "kit" which gives, in detail, guidelines for the establishment of such a committee.

As a result of Mrs. Varvarikos's presentation, a letter was sent to the United Way of the Lower Mainland, Burnaby Division, expressing the Justice Council/Family Court Committee's support of a Community Standards Committee in the District of Burnaby.

At the Justice Council/Family Court Committee meeting held on 1983 November 30, Mrs. Varvarikos advised that the United Way of the Lower Mainland, Burnaby Division, are currently soliciting various community groups within Burnaby to determine the need for a Community Standards Committee. If sufficient support is received from these community groups, it is the intention of the United Way of the Lower Mainland, Burnaby Division, to approach Burnaby Municipal Council requesting their support for the establishment of a Community Standards Committee in the District of Burnaby, utilizing the "kit" received from the District of Coquitlam as a guideline. Committee members agreed that if a formal presentation is made to Council regarding this matter, a representative from the Committee will be in attendance.

FAMILY COURT COUNSELLORS

The Justice Council/Family Court Committee, at their meeting held on 1983 October 26, received a presentation from Mr. Ed Klassen, Family Relations Act Services, Ministry of the Attorney General, who provided Committee members with background information on the establishment of family court counselling services in British Columbia. The scope of family court counselling is with families receiving social security and unable to obtain proper representation. This service is well recognized in the Attorney General's Department and also the Family Court in Burnaby. The services provided by the counsellors are mediation, assistance in settling separation and litigation issues. The majority of time is spent on mediation regarding custody, access and maintenance of children.

BURNABY LIFE LINE SOCIETY

The Justice Council/Family Court Committee, at their meeting held on 1983 November 30 heard a presentation from Ms. Wenda Erickson, Administrator, Burnaby Life Line Society, who advised that the Society was founded in 1973 and is a non profit organization. To date, they have 179 clients on file and 30 volunteer homemakers are available to provide the necessary assistance their clients require. Mrs. Erickson further advised that the Burnaby Life Line Society operates a home for battered women and provided the rules and regulations governing this facility.

LAY COUNSELLING SERVICE

The Justice Council/Family Court Committee, at their meeting held on 1983 November 30 received a brief update from Mrs. Susan Varvarikos, United Way of the Lower Mainland, Burnaby Division, regarding the establishment of the Lay Counselling Service in Burnaby. This Service was developed as a result of studies which determined the need for counselling of families in stress. Two members of the Justice Council/Family Court Committee serve on the Lay Counselling Service and have worked together for 15 months to put this service into operation. The service consists of all volunteers who are trained over a period of three months and are required to give a two year commitment to the service.

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Respectfully submitted,

BURNABY JUSTICE COUNCIL/FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE

Mr. N.R.K. Stainton, Chairman

Mrs. M. Pasqua, Secretary