

REPORT
Regular Council Meeting
1987 DECEMBER 14

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY
FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND ALDERMEN

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Brian Pollick, Director of Special Projects, Ministry of the Attorney General, 4th Floor, Weiler Building, 609 Broughton Street, Victoria, B.C., V8W 1C8

R E P O R T

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

4. (4)(c) 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 this statutory requirement, contained hereunder is a summary of activities of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee from 1986 January to 1986 December.

1. DUTY COUNSEL SERVICES IN BURNABY FAMILY COURT

Mr. Jack Olsen, Executive Director of the Legal Services Society and Judge P. D'A Collings of the Burnaby Provincial Courts, Family Division appeared before the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee to discuss duty counsel services in Burnaby Family Court.

Duty Counsellors are employed for the purpose of educating and communicating with persons (and their families) who are scheduled to appear in Family Court.

In response to the Committee's concern with respect to the availability of services in the Burnaby Family Court, Mr. Olsen agreed that duty counselling in the court system is cost effective but that there were insufficient funds to provide for more services than what was currently available. If funding did become available it would be allocated to other areas where duty counsel services are not available.

As of 1986 February, there were three lawyers employed as duty counsel in the Burnaby Family Court and these counsellors attended on a regular basis, in the mornings only. The Committee had been informed that when a person (specifically juveniles) was brought into Court during the afternoon, they were not afforded the opportunity of meeting with duty counsel and more often than not, unnecessarily detained overnight until such time as counselling could be provided.

The Committee therefore agreed to contact the Administrator at Burnaby Family Court to determine the number of cases where

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persons were detained overnight until such time as counselling was provided. The response from the Court Administrator was that no concrete statistics were available but that the problem as expressed by the Committee rarely occurred

In conclusion, the Committee agreed to continue monitoring duty counsel services in Burnaby Family Court.

2. YOUTH INVOLVEMENT WEEK

1986 May 28 to June 04 was "Youth Involvement Week" in Burnaby. The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee entertained a guest speaker being Mrs. Susan Varvarikos, United Way representative to the Committee, who provided a detailed outline of the events to take place during that week.

"Youth Involvement Week" is planned by the Youth Advisory Committee and the Youth Employment Strategies Task Force of the United Way. The program for this event focused on two issues; employment and life skills. Specifically, the aim was to provide youth with practical skills and raise the awareness of youth and the community about each other. Pre-employment skills, time management, independent living skills, and developing marketing experience by means of constructive interaction of business and the community were scheduled topics for discussion on the program.

3. 1987 FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

In 1986 May, the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee expressed a desire to host the 1987 Family Court Committee Conference. A report was forwarded to Municipal Council 1986 June 09 requesting authorization for the Committee to host the Conference and to secure funding to cover the costs of initiating the Conference. Council subsequently adopted the recommendations of the Committee that Burnaby host the conference, and further, allocated one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) as "seed" money to the Committee.

The Committee then struck a Conference Planning Committee who met during the summer months to discuss matters such as accommodation and facilities, scheduling, invitations, reception kits, financing and topics for speakers and panel discussions.

In 1986 September it was agreed to hold the Conference at the Sheraton Villa Inn from 1987 February 27 to March 01 inclusive and that the theme for the Conference be "youth". At the 1986 October Committee meeting, the conference agenda, as proposed by the Conference Planning Committee, was approved.

The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, during 1986, committed a major portion of their time and energies on the planning and arranging of the 1987 Family Court Committee Conference. A complete account of the Conference will be the subject of the 1987 Annual Report to Council next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Gordon McDonald
 Chairman