

REPORT
Regular Council Meeting
1989 MAY 08

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND ALDERMEN

RE: ANNUAL REPORT - 1988

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Rene de Vos, Senior Project Officer, Policy and Program Services, Ministry of Attorney General, 4th Floor, 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) The Family Court Committee shall
(c) report annually to the municipalities involved and to the Attorney General respecting its 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 1988 January to 1988 December inclusive.

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Privatization of Family Court Counseling Services

The Provincial Government introduced a proposal to privatize family court counseling services. The Committee was concerned of the effect this change would have on the operation of the service in Burnaby.

Letters were sent to the Premier's Office, the Minister in Charge of Privatization, the Ministry of Provincial Secretary and Government Services and Burnaby Family Court Counseling Services, seeking a clear definition of the proposal. The Committee was also approached by the Vancouver Family Court Committee who shared the same concerns regarding continuity of service, uniform standards, and adequate levels of service throughout the Province.

It was then learned, in January of 1989, that a contract has been drawn for Family Court Counseling Services in the Vancouver Island Region as part of a pilot project for a period of up to two years. Family Court Counseling Services will continue to be provided directly by government employees in the remainder of the Province for that period of time.

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- DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
- O.I.C., R.C.M.P.

Based on that information, the Committee is now corresponding with the Victoria Family Court Committee for the purpose of monitoring the pilot project in the Vancouver Island Region.

Willingdon Youth Detention Centre

A member of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee has been appointed to the Citizen Advisory Review Board of the Willingdon Youth Detention Centre and attends meetings on a regular monthly basis.

Topics of discussion at Board meetings include general maintenance and repair of the Willingdon Facility, concerns of the inmates, and activities in the youth detention centre as reported by the media.

Verbal reports and a copy of the minutes of the Citizen Advisory Review Board meetings are provided each month to the Committee.

Victim Assistance Television Project

The Committee continues to examine the proposal to produce a Cable 4 television program on the subject of victim assistance.

The proposal is now at the stage where details for a script are being considered, with the assistance of Burnaby R.C.M.P.'s Victim Assistance Section and Cable 4 Television staff.

Burnaby Youth Diversion Court Proposal

The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, in compliance with its mandate as set out in Section 69 of the Young Offenders Act continued to pursue the development of a proposal for a youth diversion court in Burnaby. This type of diversionary activity has been effective in curtailing the number of young repeat offenders in various other jurisdictions. The Committee maintains that peer group pressure is a powerful tool in assisting offenders to lead constructive and responsible lives within the community and it is hoped that Burnaby will derive benefits from this project.

A sub committee was struck which extensively researched other diversion programs in Canada and United States.

Various meetings were held with representatives from the Ministry of the Attorney General, School Board, Probation Officers, Crown Counsel, Burnaby R.C.M.P. Youth Services and the legal profession for the purpose of seeking input and support for the proposal. Further, consideration was given to inviting a representative from a community based youth diversion program, on a consulting basis, to apprise the Committee of procedures taken in the initial development and subsequent operation of their respective program. It was the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee's intention to ensure that all bases were covered prior to recommending implementation of the program to Council.

Council, at the regular Council meeting held 1988 August 08 received a "first draft" proposal from the Committee outlining the plan of development and subsequent monitoring strategy for a youth diversion court pilot project.

By year's end, the Committee became involved in issues relating to grant applications for funding, liability insurance, a project coordinator position, delegation of duties and responsibilities and determining where the majority of referrals to youth court program would come from.

Respectfully submitted,

Alderman L.A. Rankin
Chairman

