

REPORT  
Regular Council Meeting  
1993 January 18

CITY OF BURNABY

FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS:

Re: Village of Belcarra's Resolution on the Young Offenders Act

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council support the Village of Belcarra's resolution concerning the Young Offenders' Act of Canada.

R E P O R T

Council, at the regular Council meeting held on 1993 January 04, received correspondence from the Village of Belcarra requesting support of a resolution for review of the Young Offenders' Act. Council subsequently referred this correspondence to the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee for review.

At the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting held on 1993 January 06, the Committee discussed the Village of Belcarra's request for support of its resolution (Attachment I) for review of the Young Offenders' Act and recommend that Burnaby Council also support the resolution.

Your Committee further suggests that the Village of Belcarra pursue a request to the Minister of Justice to review the overall problem of youth violence in order to provide adequate treatment or preventative facilities in addition to the legislative services.

Respectfully submitted,

: COPY - CITY MANAGER  
- DIR. ADMIN. & COMM. SERV.  
- DIR. PLANNING & BUILDING  
- OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, R.C.M.P.

L. Baker  
Chair

Councillor D. Lawson  
Member



~~CORRESPONDENCE  
1993 JANUARY 04~~

# VILLAGE OF BELCARRA

4084 BEDWELL BAY ROAD, BELCARRA, B.C. V3H 4P8  
TELEPHONE (604) 939-4411 FAX 939-5034

December 8, 1992

ATTACHMENT I

Mayor and Council,  
The District of Burnaby,  
4949 Canada Way,  
Burnaby, B.C.  
V5G 1M2

Dear Mayor and Council:

Recently, there has been considerable media attention surrounding an apparent rise in youth oriented crime in British Columbia. The actions of young offenders do not appear to receive the same focus of the courts as those committed by adults.

The municipal Council for the Village of Belcarra believes that, although most of us cannot stop the crime committed in our society, we can perhaps address the matter of the legislation which permits some members of society to avoid prosecution. As a result, Belcarra Council has passed a Resolution (attached) which encourages the Solicitor General of Canada to review the "Young Offenders Act" with a view to introducing amendments to better protect our society.

If we receive strong supportive response from other municipalities in B.C., then we intend to take this issue to municipalities across Canada. Accordingly, we respectfully request that your Council consider the endorsement of the attached resolution.

Please direct your replies to Mr. Michael Cotton, of the Belcarra Protective Services Committee, at 4152 Marine Avenue, Belcarra, B.C., V3H 4P9, or telephone (604) 936-3263.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important initiative.

Yours truly,

Ralph Drew  
MAYOR

~~: COPY - CITY MANAGER  
- DIR. ADMIN. & COMM. SERV.  
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING  
- OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, P.C.M.P.~~

MLC/mc  
enclosures



CORRESPONDENCE  
1993 JANUARY 04

## VILLAGE OF BELCARRA

4084 BEDWELL BAY ROAD, BELCARRA, B.C. V3H 4P8  
TELEPHONE (604) 939-4411 FAX 939-5034

**WHEREAS** it would appear that the Young Offenders Act of Canada, as currently enacted, is inadequate for the needs of modern society;

**AND WHEREAS** young offenders in Canada appear to enjoy an extraordinary status under this Act which may not achieve the appropriate balance between the rights of young offenders and those of society as a whole;

### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Solicitor General of Canada be requested to review the current Young Offenders Act, with all relevant parties, for the purpose of identifying needed changes to improve the Act.

M A Y O R

C L E R K

NOTE:

This resolution and attached Schedule "A" is being circulated to all Municipal Councils in the Province of British Columbia for their consideration.

## SCHEDULE " A "

### *REVISION OF THE YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT*

The following concerns are suggested areas which may be further investigated during a review of the Young Offenders Act.

While the Act appears to adequately serve the needs of first-time offenders, many Canadians are worried that it does not provide satisfactory protection to the public against the criminal actions of chronic or repeat offenders. As a result, the Village of Belcarra urges the Federal Government to undertake a revision of the Young Offenders Act, so that it will adequately protect the public from the criminal actions of young offenders.

While the Young Offenders Act seems to recognize the importance of public protection in Canada, we would draw your attention to the following excerpt:

Section 3 (1) (b) :

" Society must, although it has the responsibility to take reasonable measures to prevent criminal conduct by young persons, be afforded the necessary protection from illegal behaviour; "

It would appear there is little in the Act that will afford protection from illegal behaviour of the young offenders. Specifically, the following areas might be considered as a guide to concerns currently held by the general public:

- a) Adequate protection of the general public from the young offender.
- b) A viable way to protect and assist law enforcement officers as they attempt to enforce the Act.
- c) The protection of under-age people, who may be directly influenced by a criminal element, or who may be acting as a result of peer pressure. These individuals would not normally commit a crime, however, neither are they adequately protected under the Act.
- d) Review of the " rehabilitation " program for young offenders, with a view of providing recommendations to improve existing guidelines.