

CITY OF BURNABY

FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: ANNUAL REPORT - 1996

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to the Office of the Attorney General, Room 232, 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 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 during 1996.

1996 CONFERENCE OF B.C. FAMILY COURT & YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEES

Five members of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee attended the 1996 Conference of B.C. Family Court and Youth Justice Committees held in Victoria from 1996 October 18 - 20. Committee members listened to speakers in various areas, including Judge Gove regarding the Gove Commission. There was also interesting workshops on the new Young Offenders Act, First Nations justice alternatives and the new Access to Information Act. It was an excellent opportunity for committees across the province to network and discuss alternative methods of dealing with issues facing youth.

: COPY - CITY MANAGER

CIVIC YOUTH STRATEGY

In 1996 October the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee reviewed and endorsed the Civic Youth Strategy. This strategy states that youth should be given the opportunity to actively participate in city and community decisions. A key objective of the strategy is to provide support networks and positive opportunities for all youth, including those deemed "high risk". This strategy also attempts to ensure that the accomplishments and successes of youth are recognized and celebrated.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Mr. Mitch Bloomfield, Manager, Youth Services, Burnaby School District, appeared before members of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee outlining services available to youth. Mr. Bloomfield provided copies of a booklet entitled "Youth Pages," a resource guide distributed to students in grades 7 through 12. Mr. Bloomfield advised that six youth service workers and six R.C.M.P. school liaison officers are available to provide assistance and support to youths.

Ms. Nola Crocker, Co-ordinator, Edmonds Youth Resource Centre, appeared before members of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee outlining services offered by the Centre and major issues facing youth. Ms. Crocker advised that the Centre is a safe place for 'youth at risk'. The Centre provides access to resource information and the services of a nurse or lawyer. Food and clothing is also provided. Ms. Crocker further advised that the many issues facing youth include, violence, gangs, theft, alcohol, drugs, schools, jobs, AIDS, prostitution and unplanned pregnancy. Ms. Crocker concluded by advising that direct communication is required between youths and adults to deal with these issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Hutton
Chair

Alison Joe
Vice Chair

Councillor C. Redman
Member