

CITY OF BURNABY

FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**RE: ANNUAL REPORT - 2000**

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 2000.

CHILD AND YOUTH PROSTITUTION

The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee is represented on the joint City of Burnaby/New Westminster task force addressing the sexual exploitation of children and youth. The task force encouraged and assisted with the establishment of a two-bed safe-house for sexually exploited youth which opened in 2000 January. In addition, the task force developed a comprehensive community education campaign on the exploitation of children and youth in the sex trade as a means of raising general awareness of, and thus preventing, this form of child abuse. Finally, the City and other organizations on the Task Force collaborated on the establishment of the Burnaby Integrated Sexually Exploited Child and Youth Team, a group of front-line professionals who meet on a monthly basis to co-ordinate service planning for, and with, sexually exploited young people.

: COPY - CITY MANAGER

## COMMUNITY FORUM

In 2000 October, the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee and Burnaby School District No. 41 co-hosted a community forum at the Michael J. Fox Theatre on strategies to prevent bullying. Close to 200 people attended this very successful event.

The keynote speakers, Dr. Debra Pepler, Professor of Psychology at York University, and David Moore and John McDonald, Transformative Justice Australia, emphasized that old line methods of dealing with bullying by focusing on only the bully and victim are just not enough.

The speakers outlined a new technique for dealing with bullying called community conferencing. A community conference brings together the offender, victim and their respective support groups along with a trained facilitator. The facilitator ensures that each participant is given an opportunity to say how they feel about what happened. At this point, the person who caused the harm is more likely to accept responsibility for their behaviour because they have a fuller understanding of the consequences of the behaviour. The group then formulates an agreement on what actions are needed to address the offender's behaviour.

The speakers concluded by noting that in New South Wales, Australia, where community conferencing has been tested, student suspensions because of bullying have been cut in half.

The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee is keen to facilitate the introduction and delivery of innovative techniques in Burnaby to deal with bullying.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Joe  
Chair

Dr. Stanley Jung  
Vice Chair

Councillor Nancy Harris  
Member