



Meeting 2010 February 01

COUNCIL REPORT

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR BC FAMILIES WITH SUBSTANCE
ABUSE ISSUES**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Mayor on behalf of Council, write the Attorney General and Premier urging the Provincial Government to re-open discussions regarding the enactment of legislation to provide treatment options for youth, struggling with substance abuse.
2. THAT the Mayor on behalf of Council, write to Burnaby's Members of the Legislative Assembly and Members of Parliament requesting letters of support be sent to the Attorney General; and the Premier.
3. THAT copies of these letters be sent to the South Fraser Family Court Committee.

REPORT

The Social Issues Committee, at its 'Open' meeting held on 2010 January 21, *adopted* a motion supporting the South Fraser Family Court and Youth Justice Committee letter campaign, encouraging the BC Government to re-open discussions to enact legislation that will address treatment options for youth, struggling with substance abuse and refusing treatment. A copy of the information considered by the Committee is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor P. Calendino
Chair

Councillor P. McDonell
Vice Chair

Councillor A. Kang
Member

Copied to: City Manager Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director Planning and Building
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SOUTH
FRASER

FAMILY COURT & YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

CLERK'S FILE: 19000-01

COPY: CITY MANAGER
DIR. PLNG & BLDG
OIC, RCMP
SOCIAL ISSUES COMM

December 21, 2009.

Burnaby Family Court Committee
Mayor Derek Corrigan and members of Council
City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC
V5G 1M2

Dear Burnaby Family Court Committee, Mayor Corrigan and members of Council;

If you have a child struggling with substance abuse and refusing treatment in Burnaby, or anywhere else in BC, there is nothing you can do to help get your child into care, even though, 40% of BC's teen overdose deaths in the past 11 years have been in the BC Coroners Fraser Region. Currently, parents in Burnaby cannot place their child, who is struggling with substance abuse and refusing treatment, into a detox/treatment program.

The British Columbia government has previously considered developing legislation (Secure Care Act) to protect our youth struggling with substance abuse who refuse treatment. However, at the time (2000), the Act was not proclaimed, because it was believed that the Act was too broad, the maximum period of time in care was too long (100 days), and the effectiveness of involuntary intervention had not been demonstrated.

In light of the new practice-based research, we would like the BC government to re-open their discussions regarding treatment options for youth, struggling with substance abuse and refusing treatment.

On behalf of the South Fraser Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, I am asking for your support and participation in our letter writing campaign. During the last year, we have carried out research exploring options for families whose children are struggling with substance abuse and who are refusing to access treatment programs in British Columbia. Currently, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba are the only provinces that have developed, implemented, and evaluated legislation for detox/treatment programs for families with youth struggling with substance abuse who refuse treatment. Legislation was developed in response to an identified gap in addiction services for youth, who have serious alcohol and other drug problems, and refuse treatment. The intent is to provide another avenue of support when all other options for intervention and voluntary treatment have failed.

The attached Research Summary reviews our research. This research includes information on similar legislation in the above provinces, challenges faced, and a summary of the evaluations of the work these provinces have done.

South Fraser Family Court & Youth Justice Committee

Burnaby Family Court Committee

December 21, 2009

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We are requesting that Burnaby supports our letter writing campaign by sending letters to:

1. MLA Kathy Corrigan;
2. MLA Raj Chouhan;
3. MLA Harry Bloy;
4. MLA Richard T. Lee;
5. Honourable Michael de Jong, Attorney General; and
6. Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier;
 - To support our letter writing campaign's impact, we ask that copies of these letters be sent to our committee.

Furthermore, in your letters to MLA Kathy Corrigan, MLA Raj Chouhan, MLA Harry Bloy, and MLA Richard Lee:

- please request that they send a similar letter of support to Honourable Michael de Jong, Attorney General; and to Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier and
- that they send copies of these letters to the South Fraser Family Court Committee.

As many parents in British Columbia face the desperate challenge of helping their children who are struggling with severe substance abuse and refusing to access treatment, we ask you to recommend that the BC government re-opens their discussions regarding treatment options for youth, struggling with substance abuse and refusing voluntary detox/treatment programs.

We are aware that many letters of support may be needed to encourage our BC Government to implement another avenue of support when all other options for intervention and voluntary treatment have failed; therefore, it is our goal to collect letters of support from: municipal councils, MLAs, and other Family Court & Youth Justice Committees throughout BC. Once we have collected these letters, we will forward them as a "Support Package" to the British Columbia government.

If you have any questions or comments regarding our initiative, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Barbara Westlake,
Vice-chair South Fraser Family Court & Youth Justice Committee
Sub-Committee Chair Youth Recovery
youthrecovery@eastlink.ca

Enclosure