



VIRRJA

Vancouver Island Region Restorative Justice Association

*Advancing restorative justice on Vancouver Island, the
Sunshine Coast and all Gulf Islands*

VIRRJA General Meeting ~ MINUTES
Dec 5, 2023 11 am - 1 pm via Zoom

Present: (*Board Members)

Sunshine Coast: **Jan Smalley**

qathet: **Siobhan Brown**, Minoo, Eric Stenberg, Ben Fairless

Comox: Karen McKinnon

Campbell River: Avalon Willis, Kristine Atkinson, Graeme Duffy, Faith Adamo

Nanaimo: Kluane Buser-Rivet

Port Alberni: David Brooks, Alex Glassey

Community Circles: **Richard Tarnoff**

West Coast: Myles Morrison

Alert Bay: **Molly Willie**

Victoria: **Nicky Hadwell**

Salt Spring: Jessica Terezakis

Saanich Peninsula: **Sue Saunders**

RCMP E Div: Cpl Cheryl Letkeman

Crown Prosecutor: Gillian Angrove, Chantelle Coulson

BUSINESS:

- Meeting opened by President, Richard Tarnoff at 11 am.
- Round of introductions
- Agenda approved by Richard and Jan
- Financial Report (Siobhan). Balance is \$7815.68. Civil Forfeiture Grant submitted for an in-person Conference tentative for Feb '25. Grant decision will be in April '24. We have funds for Honorariums for Elders etc.
- Communications (Sue) noted the website is updated and focus is on resources for members to find and submit. Continue to refer to our Facebook page for discussions and announcements.
- Education (Nicky) plans for training workshops, possible mini conference in Feb '24. Participation in the committee and ideas always welcome.

- Indigenous Values and Diversity (Molly and Jan) plan to host a training with Molly on “Truth Trust and Relationships” to explore the history and issues of colonization from the Indigenous point of view.

Presentation: “Federal Crown Alternatives to Prosecution Project Update”

- Gillian Angrove and Chantelle Coulson, Crown Prosecutors, from the Federal Prosecution Services provided a very informative session updating us on their project to refer alternatives to prosecution in Crown files, described as a “radical departure”.
- the project was adopted in Feb ‘23
- number of files is increasing and access to files is expanding
- internal and external factors as well as barriers were presented
- realize funding is a big issue
- working with 61 RJ organizations and IJP building connections
- some resistance from investigating partners
- the process to review files was outlined
- encouraging start to this project
- Please contact: Chantelle.Coulson@ppsc-sppc.gc.ca or gillian.Angrove@ppsc-sppc.gc.ca for further information.

Members Exchange: “RJ Relationships with the Criminal Justice System”

- Campbell River, office in detachment, solid working arrangement
- Port Alberni - police are on their Board
- Files: try not to turn back files due to resources, encourage the relationship
- Alert Bay ; Ensure that the community develops their protocols for the RCMP
- consider load sharing cases between communities to manage referrals
- Bridge when victim/offender are from different communities
- Consider School Board members on your board
- Members interested in “Casual Conferences” with VIRRJA, monthly?
- let’s create a culture of sharing through email, Facebook, sharing sessions
- Nanaimo is looking for mentors (18+ with CR check

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM

NEXT MEETING: Feb 6, 2024 11 am - 1 pm

Submitted by:
Sue Saunders, VIRRJA Secretary

