



# VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

[VIRRJA@ymail.com](mailto:VIRRJA@ymail.com)

[www.acjs.ca/virrja](http://www.acjs.ca/virrja)

*Advancing Restorative Justice on Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast and  
all Gulf Islands.*

**VIRRJA GENERAL MEETING Zoom Meeting  
22 FEBRUARY 2021 10.00 AM – 12 NOON**

## MINUTES

WELCOME: President Vanessa Ramsdale welcomed everyone to the meeting

OPENING: Tamara Alfred's uncle Andrew Sak, a hereditary chief, gave a traditional opening to the meeting

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND OPENING ROUND DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION HAVE A SCHOOLS PROGRAM?

25 people in attendance representing 15 programs, one independent practitioner and RCMP E-Division RJ coordinator. Apologies from Jane Osborne, RJ Vic, Siobhan Brown qathet CJ, Caryl Wylie Arrowsmith CJ, Jo-Ann Youmans RJ Vic and Emma Stanton RJ Vic.

qathet Community Justice: Theresa Verdiel and Jane Waterman – Have an active committee working on a schools program

Comox Valley Community Justice Centre: Bruce Curtis – No formal schools program but get referrals from the schools

South Island Wellness Society: Vanessa Ramsdale, Rob Sam, Carol Hartman and Mark Atleo - no schools program at this time

Port Alberni RJ: Sandy Anweiler and Laurie Money – no schools program

Saanich Peninsula Restorative Justice: Sue Saunders and Liz Cox – Have had a schools program for 20 years.

Sunshine Coast RJ: Jan Smalley and Donna Schmirler – Long standing relationship with SD 46

Campbell River RJ: Kristine Atkinson – Hiring a part-time outreach worker for schools and First Nations

Community Circles RJ Ladysmith: Richard Tarnoff – No Schools program but SD 68 supportive of RJ

Songees Nation: Siaminthit Morris

Gold River RJ: Arlene Fehr – informal schools program

Warmland RJ: Alan Peabody – preparing a school program

West Coast RJ: Myles Morrison – no formal program but all schools refer cases

RCMP BC Division RJ coordinator: Kara Dosanjh

Independent Practitioner: Gail Jewsbury

Whe-la-la-u Alert Bay: Tamara Alfred –Collaborate with schools in Port McNeil.

Salt Spring Island RJ: Darlene Gage and Laura Dafoe - actively pursuing and developing relationships with schools

Pauquachin Nation: Narrene Williams

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Indigenous Values and Diverse Communities (IVDC):

- In moving forward in a good way with indigenous practice and values, the committee plans to have an elder open at the start of each GM.
- Recognizes that the leads for many of our tasks are the education committee or the board- Richard will be the go between as he is on both committees.
- Would like to invite Dr. Robert Joseph to come and present and discuss the TRC for the next or an upcoming GM. Further information is required for his availability and if this is in line with the education committees goals.

### Membership:

- Compiling a comprehensive list of programs and Indigenous Justice Assoc. in the area
- To increase membership encourage students, craft a “value proposition” of the benefits of membership
- Find ways to extend learning opportunities – see “RJ on the Rise” for great examples
- Look at electronic methods to pay annual dues

### Communication:

- Design a stand-alone website
- Design a manual and directory to have on the website
- maximize 2-way communication opportunities between members and partners
- look for feedback from communications

### Education:

- Have defined committee’s terms of reference
- Will liaise with IVDC
- Publicize external educational possibilities

### By-Law:

- Existing by-laws are from the Societies Act and are not very specific
- Any changes have to be registered with BC Societies Registry.
- Email Gail: [gjewsbury@shaw.ca](mailto:gjewsbury@shaw.ca) with suggested changes to the by-laws

### Funding:

- CAP application now online – they offer training regarding the new system
- RCMP FVIF (Family Violence Initiative Fund) deadline March 31st, 2021. NOTE: FVIF applications must be received by E Division Crime Prevention Services by March 29th, 2021 for signature of OIC Crime Prevention Services
- The Right Honorable Beverley McLaughlin Access to Justice Fund will support individuals, entities and organizations working to improve civil and family justice by developing and implementing practical solutions to enhance access to justice

## RESTORATIVE ACTION IN SCHOOLS

Zofia Switkowski, Restorative Action Program coordinator with Community Justice Initiatives Association. Presentation on Restorative Action in Schools; Q & A

Zofia Switkowski’s work focuses on fostering safe and relational school environments. After a personal encounter with restorative justice, Zofia began facilitating for the North Shore Restorative Justice Society's pre-charge diversion program, and went on to coordinate their Circles in Schools Initiative where she fell in love with schools-based restorative practices. She

currently serves as the Restorative Action Program Coordinator with Fraser Region Community Justice Initiatives, on the unceded territory of the Matsqui, Semiahmoo, Katzie, and Kwantlen First Nations, colonially known as Langley, BC.

Zofia is willing to share her slide presentation with anyone attending this VIRRJA meeting. She does not want it posted on the website or shared widely with people who did not attend her presentation. Email [virrja@ymail.com](mailto:virrja@ymail.com) for a copy.

See CJIBC website for more information about their program and what they offer: [Restorative Action Program for Schools - Community Justice Initiatives \(cjibc.org\)](http://RestorativeActionProgramforSchools-CommunityJusticeInitiatives(cjibc.org))

NOTE:

RCMP E Division will soon be hiring a School Liaison/Youth Coordinator. Cpl. Kara Dosanjh will work closely with that person.

CLOSING ROUND

Meeting finished at 12.10PM

NEXT MEETING 19 APRIL 2021 VIA ZOOM.