



VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

VIRRJA@ymail.com

www.acjs.ca/virrja

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

VIRRJA GENERAL MEETING 21 June 2021 10.00 AM – 12 NOON **Zoom Meeting** **MINUTES**

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER SONG by Bubba Qwulshemut, accompanied by his brother, Clayton Qwulshemut, from Cowichan Tribes was warmly received. As it was National Indigenous Peoples Day they left to attend other engagements. Bruce Curtis, Vice-President and chair, thanked them for making the time to open our meeting.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND OPENING ROUND

28 people in attendance representing 13 programs, one independent practitioner, ED OF RJABC, RCMP E-Division RJ coordinator and Founder/Director of Peace of the Circle

Saanich Peninsula Restorative Justice: Sue Saunders, Andrea Safavi

gathet Community Justice: Jane Waterman, Marilyn Carey, Theresa Verdiel

Comox Valley Community Justice Centre: Bruce Curtis

Arrowsmith Community Justice Society: Caryl Wylie

Sunshine Coast RJ: Jan Smalley, Donna Schmirler, Ian Cochran

Campbell River RJ: Kristine Atkinson, Avalon Willis

Community Circles RJ Ladysmith: Richard Tarnoff, Deanne Wrate

Gold River RJ: Arlene Fehr

Warmland RJ: Alan Peabody, Kerri Lynn Warren, Tammy Morris

West Coast RJ: Myles Morrison

Salt Spring Island RJ: Darlene Gage, Christina Chua

RJ Victoria: Jo-Ann Youmans, Gillian Lindquist

John Howard Victoria: Amanda MacPherson

Independent Practitioner: Gail Jewsbury

RCMP BC Division RJ coordinator: Kara Dosanjh

RJ Association of BC: Christianne Paras

Peace of the Circle: Evelyn Zellerer

BUSINESS MEETING: was called to order at 10.20 AM

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

- Meet every 2 weeks
- Speaker for 16 August 2021 General meeting: Mabel Peters, Native Court worker
- Speaker for AGM 26 October 2021: Mitch Walker, Director of Gladue Services
- Annual Conference deferred until 26-27 February 2021. 2 days in person with ZOOM option. Topic: Mental health and addictions.

Finance Report

- Gail reported that the account balance at 30 April 2021 \$7862.94 of which \$3500 is allocated for excess speaker costs at AGM. Since 30 April 2021 Revenue \$25, Expenses \$750
- Have received the \$30,000 grant from Civil Forfeitures

Membership Report

- Gail reported we have 16 paid up members.
- Christine from Campbell River pointed out that her program's application and cheque had been returned by the Post Office.

By-law Committee

- Committee comprises Gail, Caryl Wylie, Myles Morrison, Jo-Ann Youmans
- Meet every 2-3 weeks
- Hope to report to the Board of Directors in July or August

Fundraising Committee

- Committee comprises Bruce Curtis and Gail
- As we have the \$30,000 from Civil Forfeitures not applying for other grants at present but always open to ideas from the membership

Communication Committee

- Sue introduced the new website www.virrja.ca and asked for feedback.

Indigenous Values and Diverse Communities Committee

- Richard reported that 3 of the original 5 committee members had to leave so committee now Richard and Jan Smalley. However Jan hopes to bring 2 new people to the next meeting

Nominations for AGM:

- Vacancies on the board - 2 new Directors-at-large, a new President, Vice-President, Secretary. Gail, Sue, & Richard have 1 year left in their terms and Gail is remaining as Treasurer
- Siobhan Brown from qathet CJ and Deanne Wrate from Community Circles RJ Ladysmith have agreed to be nominated.
From this meeting Amanda MacPherson from John Howard Victoria expressed an interest and will meet with Jane and Sue.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Allan Peabody reported that the BC branch of the Canadian Bar Association has convened a Restorative Justice working group. They will be contacting all RJ programs by phone or email asking 8 survey questions. He urges everyone to reply.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Moussa Magassa, PhD (Curriculum and Instruction), M.A. (Human Security and Peacebuilding), B.A. (Hons) Human Rights Educator at UVic, specialist in anti-oppression curriculum and program development, Consultant: Intercultural Capacity Building Inc. (www.magassa.ca),

EMBEDDING ANTI-RACISM IN RESTORATIVE PRACTICES. Developing strategies for meaningful social change

- “We believe in Ubuntu, the African idea that people are people because of other people. We define ourselves as people who believe in the crucial importance of relationships, of human interactions and particularly of the reality that not only are our human issues interconnected, but that our lives can’t evolve without each other. We believe peace is the only sustainable alternative for all of us.” From website.
- We have permission to share the zoom recording from Moussa’s presentation. Please email secretary@virrja.ca if you would like a copy.

Meeting closed at 11.50 AM